



METRO LINK IS BACK ON TRACK

Report by Andrew Turton

MULTI-MILLION plans reviving the Midland Metro extension to Dudley, Merry Hill and Brierley Hill have been bolstered after new funding was agreed.

Senior councillors have agreed to plough £100,000 into the scheme to bring the proposal up to date to finally get it off the ground.

Officials have warned 'work needs to start in earnest' to present revised plans or potential funding could be lost.

Plans to extend the Metro from Wednesbury had been dogged by delays after successive governments failed to commit funding.

But Dudley Council leader Councillor Pete Lowe says a £1 billion funding package agreed with Chancellor George Osborne can secure its future.

Councillor Lowe says council leaders are supporting the proposals through the new West Midlands Combined Authority.

The Black Country Executive Joint Committee has granted approval for £100,000 of funding to be put towards developing the scheme. The money will be spent on revamping plans and costings.

Update

Officials say work to update the proposals will gather pace during the new financial year.

Currently the Midland Metro links Wolverhampton with Birmingham city centre via Wednesbury and West Bromwich. The proposed scheme would run for around seven miles from the existing line at Wednesbury via Great Bridge, Horseley Heath, Dudley Port, Dudley town centre, the Waterfront and Merry Hill, before terminating at Brierley Hill town centre.

A report to the committee said: "Following the West Midlands Combined Authority Devolution Deal announced by George Osborne on November 17, the Department for Transport (DfT) have provisionally allocated funding to the proposed East/West Metro link. The Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro forms part of this wider scheme. The scheme has been identified as a priority for a number of years within the Black Country."

"In light of the recent decision, a refresh of the scheme, design and business case needs to be undertaken. The review work would be undertaken by Centro and the appointed framework consultants to review the business case, scheme programme and costs."

"The work needs to start in earnest now to allow the scheme to meet the DfT requirements and prevent the funding offer from the DfT being withdrawn."

Councillor Lowe added: "A lot of the pre-preparatory work was done many years ago but of course the funding has never been available. Now we are making progress."

ROLL UP FOR A WHEELY BOSTIN' NEW VIEW OF TOWN



Wheel's in motion – a view from the ferris wheel as the first passengers take a spin 115ft above Dudley town centre

UP, up and away – the latest addition to Dudley's skyline gives a bird's eye view of the town.

Just three months ago people jumped on board the 115ft high ferris wheel to get a spectacular view of Birmingham city centre.

But now the wheel has been brought to the Black Country with business bosses hoping it will boost visitors to the town.

The DY Eye took its first customers up in the sky after its grand launch on Saturday. It will remain in the town over the Easter period, up until April 10.

Residents queued to get their first trip on the big wheel in Stone Street Square after the official opening by the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Walther.

Officials say its arrival is the 'catalyst' to showcase the transformation of the town centre in recent months.

They are keen to welcome more visitors following major projects such as the £6.7 million revamp of the market place and £1m revamp of Coronation Gardens.

The recently formed Dudley Business Group has brought together traders and en-

trepreneurs to work on the project to boost the town's profile.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Pete Lowe, said it was a major way to market newly-revamped Dudley to tourists and shoppers.

"It is a bostin' initiative," he said. "This is another stage of the regeneration of Dudley. You've seen the market place investment, Coronation Gardens, the new lighting of buildings in the town."

"Now we have the DY Eye. This is the first time the wheel has ever come to the Black Country."

HOUSING

45,000 homes in garden city project

A £6 BILLION plan has been unveiled to turn the Black Country into Britain's biggest 'garden city' by building 45,000 homes.

Civic and business leaders are at an international property exhibition in Cannes in a bid to win investment for the plans.

The huge project would see the Garden City built around Wolverhampton, extending to Lye and Dudley Port, West Bromwich and Aldridge. Homes would be built with open spaces and greenery in mind.

Construction would carry on for a decade in one of Britain's biggest brownfield site regeneration schemes.

SCHOOL

OSH create new sixth form centre

A LANDMARK school has revealed plans to create a new sixth form block transforming an historic building.

Old Swinford Hospital school, Stourbridge, says it is a major step to boost facilities for its older students.

Work to revamp the oldest boarding house – Foster – at the prestigious school off Heath Lane is expected to be completed by September.

It is a major investment at the state-maintained boarding school, one of just 34 in the country.

ENTERPRISE

Bid to create special zone business boost

A BID to secure Government backing for a new enterprise zone in the Black Country is gathering pace.

Proposals have been tabled to bring in the zone too boost The Waterfront and Harts Hill areas of Brierley Hill.

Dudley Council and the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership are now working together on the plans. Proposals were first mooted in 2011 but shelved in favour of Darlaston and Wolverhampton's i54.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood says he has been lobbying for the enterprise zone and has held talks with intu, owners of the Merry Hill shopping centre.

INSIDE

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Thugs are locked up after brutal attack

TWO men have been jailed for attacking a man accused of touching one of their girlfriends, a court heard.

Luke Kelly was punched in the head and face between 15 and 20 times after being set upon by Michael Dixon and Robert Grove, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The victim had met the pair earlier the same night and was invited to get into their car to pick up friends of Grove's girlfriend, who was also in the car, in Oldbury. The mood turned sour when Mr Kelly was accused of touching Grove's girlfriend around the waist. When she protested, Dixon, aged 25, of Tower Rise, Tividale, stopped

the car and got out, said Mr Gary Cook, prosecuting.

Mr Kelly was ordered out of the car and was punched by Dixon. Grove, 29, of Quilter Close, Coseley, then began throwing punches and dropped the victim.

Mr Cook said: "Dixon told Mr Kelly to get out of the car - he was adamant. He did and Grove also got out. The victim was then punched to the nose, causing it to bleed. He was then punched repeatedly by both men, culminating in Grove delivering a flying kick to his ribs."

Mr Kelly spent two days in hospital with a punctured lung, rib fractures and a broken nose.

The court was told about a separate incident in which Dixon launched an unprovoked attack on a man who was fixing a car, mistakenly believing he sounded his horn when Dixon had shouted from his bedroom window for him to stop. The 52-year-old victim lost a tooth and had several dreadlocks yanked out. A car window was smashed.

Recorder Ben Nicholls was told that both had shown remorse and were ashamed.

Dixon was jailed for 36 months after admitting inflicting grievous bodily harm, assault and criminal damage. Grove pleaded guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm and was given 27 months in prison.

Decision is deferred for regulations on taxi tints

A PLAN to enforce the removal of heavily tinted windows from taxis in Dudley has been deferred after pleas for a rethink from cabbies.

Taxi drivers said they were being forced to fork out hundreds of pounds to have cab windows replaced. They claimed many newer cars had factory-fitted tints and Dudley Council's policy needed revision.

There is a rule that at least 40 per cent of light must be able to travel through back windows of Hackney carriages and private hire taxis in order to be granted a licence by Dudley Council.

Officials said the rules helped passenger safety in the light of a child sexual exploitation review, following incidents elsewhere in the country.

The policy was set to be retained by the council's taxi committee with a condition giving cabbies three months in which to have windows changed before any sanctions were imposed. But the committee, which met last week, decided to defer this decision. Councillors wanted to see examples of tinted windows before ruling on the issue.

Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association chairman, Shaz Saleem, said: "We welcome the council going back and investigate this again. There will be older cars on the roads if this policy is enforced. Drivers have been able to bring in better cars."

He said association members had shown evidence that there had been no crimes relating to tinted windows in the borough.

Move puts smile on face of dentist

A SIX-FIGURE funding deal is helping a Black Country dentist move to bigger new premises.

The Roseville Dental practice will relocate and expand into larger premises in Coseley, just a 100 yards from its existing practice, thanks to a funding package provided by Royal Bank of Scotland.

Dr Harinder Amrik will be the principal dentist and proprietor at The Roseville Dental practice.

The practice will comprise of three surgery rooms, a consulting room, an x-ray room and a decontamination room.

Dr Amrik said: "It not only provides us with the capacity to take on new patients, but it will help us to encourage more people in the area to improve their approach to oral health."

Folk and choral music at concert

THE Sound Company community choir will be joined by the Old Grey Cat folk band for a cabaret-style concert at St John's Church, Stourbridge, on Saturday at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £6 and will be available on the door or email soundcompany@gmail.com

Small group of pupils have let school down

A DUDLEY secondary school has been told it needs to improve after inspectors raised concerns over the slow progress of pupils and classroom behaviour.

Castle High School and Visual Arts College in St James's Road was given an overall rating of 'requires improvement' after an inspection last month.

Ofsted said that too few pupils made the progress expected of them last year, especially in maths and science, while the number of pupils achieving five or more GCSE A* to C grades, including in English and maths, was 'too low'.

In his report lead inspector Rob Hackett said that a small number of pupils 'make poor choices regarding their conduct' in lessons.

"This remains a concern of some staff, parents and pupils," he said. "Inspectors observed inattention, chatting and some disruption to learning in a few lessons, usually because the work set was not engaging or did not have sufficient challenge."

Punctual

"Leaders have an effective behaviour management system in place, but this is not applied consistently by all teachers."

The report noted that the 'vast majority' of pupils were punctual but some lateness to lessons was observed.

Headteacher Michelle King said: "Inspectors praised the behaviour and attitude of the vast majority of students, noting particularly that it is a 'small number of pupils' who make 'poor choices regarding their conduct'. The school works hard - and will continue to work hard - with the parents and carers of these few students to change their behaviour."

"If they continue to let us down, they are aware that school will be resolute in its determination to prevent them from further disrupting the learning of others."

The headteacher added that the school was 'doubly determined' to make sure that examination results improved this year.

The report also pointed out a number of strengths at the 607-pupil school. The school was said to be 'well led and managed' by a headteacher and other leaders who had 'high expectations and aspirations' for pupils and staff.

Flying the flag for celebrations



Paul Palmer, of Black Country T-Shirts, Council leader Pete Lowe and Steve Edwards, of the Black Country Festival

IT is the self-professed capital of the Black Country - and now a new flag is being proudly flown at Dudley.

A new Black Country flag will flutter proudly in the lead up to this year's Black Country Festival thanks to a donation.

Officials said the old Black Country flag flown from Dudley Town Hall had become worn after 12 months of 'marking the capital of the Black Country'.

But Black Country T-Shirts,

now based in Dudley town centre, stepped forward to donate a new one ready for the festival in July.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Pete Lowe, said: "The Black Country Festival is the biggest event in the borough's calendar."

Region

"It is an opportunity for us all to celebrate everything that is fantastic about this region."

"We're really grateful to Black Country T-Shirts for the flag,

which will fly proudly from the roof of Dudley Town Hall in the lead up to what I am sure will be another bostin' month of celebrations."

Black Country T-Shirts moved to Castle Street, Dudley, in December last year and sells Black Country themed clothing and other items.

Paul Palmer from the shop joined Councillor Lowe and Steve Edwards, chairman of the Black Country Festival organising committee, to unfurl the flag that is to be flown from Dudley Town Hall.

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More talks in bid to save Castle Hill venue

FURTHER talks will be held on the future of Dudley Hippodrome after it emerged a proposal to save the theatre was 'flawed'.

Independent assessors said financial proposals by campaigners fighting to save the landmark venue were 'extremely unrealistic'.

Dudley Council said it will hold more talks with the group but will also continue to pursue plans to demolish the former theatre.

The council paid £750 to assessors FGM Consulting to carry out analysis of a business plan compiled by the steering group, which includes members of Friends of Dudley Hippodrome. Assessor Stuart Shanks said: "The financial information contained in the business plan proposal is flawed."

A statement from the steering group said: "We have been working very closely with Dudley Council, who have given us their full support. We are pleased to say that the project is now moving forward. After feedback from our first business proposal submission, we have now arranged to meet the council's assessor to further develop our business plan."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "We are continuing to have correspondence with the campaign group and have received some updated information, which we will consider."

"We will be meeting again with them in due course. Whilst we will continue to explore the friends group's scheme, we will also continue to develop an alternative proposal."

Zoo enjoying a roaring success

DUDLEY Zoo is celebrating record visitor numbers for February after welcoming more than 13,400 people through the gates.

Figures for the month were 1,995 up on last year and 4,305 up on the same month in 2012, delighted bosses revealed.

It comes as they prepare to open the new £120,000 attraction Flamingo Falls in time for Easter, which will see the existing exhibit enhanced to create a much bigger pool and a larger indoor area with a viewing space.

Zoo director Derek Grove said he believed the rise in the visitors, which follows a record-breaking January, was due to improvements already made to the site as well as a popular free return promotion.

Cakes and crafts shows at the NEC

FOUR shows are coming together at Birmingham's NEC. Sewing for Pleasure, Hobby Crafts and Fashion and Embroidery are running from today (Thursday) to Sunday, with Cake International Friday to Sunday.

MP hits back in Sunday trading row

A BLACK Country MP has hit back over claims he misled constituents over a pre-election pledge to vote against extending Sunday trading hours.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood said he is against extending Sunday trading hours in Dudley borough, despite voting in favour of devolving responsibility over opening hours to local authorities.

The Government's plans to allow councils in England and Wales to decide on extending Sunday trading hours for larger stores were blocked in the Commons on Wednesday.

The proposals were defeated by 317 votes to 286, as 27 Tories rebelled - including Stafford MP Jeremy Lefroy.

All 54 SNP MPs voted against the Government,

even though there are no restrictions to Sunday trading in Scotland.

Labour had opposed the move, mounting a Keep Sunday Special campaign.

All of the other Black Country and Staffordshire MPs voted with their party.

Campaign

Prior to the general election last April, Mr Wood had given his support to a campaign run by shopworkers' union USDAW, which opposed moves to extend Sunday opening hours.

Now he has come under fire from constituents and shop workers, one of whom described his apparent about-face as 'a complete breakdown of trust'.

The Dudley South Conservative MP said: "I don't want any changes to Sunday opening hours in Dudley, but I think when you look at the country as a whole it is a decision that should be made on a local level. I'm in favour of devolving responsibility and made my decision to vote accordingly."

"In places such as London if they think it is right to increase hours then it should be a decision for their local authorities to make."

But supermarket worker Jayne Donnelly, said: "I think it is absolutely disgusting that before the election Mike Wood signed up to USDAW's Sunday Pledge, yet here we are less than a year later and he seems to have forgotten it."

"It is a complete breakdown of trust."

Inquiry after frightened carers' road rage ordeal

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched after police allegedly told a petrified group of carers they were 'too busy' to help them during a road rage incident.

Members of the Dudley Carers Forum were travelling back from a Birmingham theatre when they say the group's minivan was in a collision with a car in the city centre.

They allege the car's driver acted aggressively towards them and pursued them into the Black Country but when they called 999 they were told officers could not help as they were too busy.

The group drove to Halesowen police station only to find that it had permanently closed. The group then drove to Brierley Hill police station where they say they were kept waiting outside for more than half an hour following a 'nightmare' 10-mile journey. The region's police and crime commissioner (PCC) David Jamieson said their claims would be investigated.

The incident on January 23 has brought into focus the issue of police accessibility in the wake of front desk closures over the last 12 months.

Accessible

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris, who campaigned in vain to keep the Laurel Lane station open, said: "It was obvious from the very beginning that incidents like this would happen following the closure of front desks. We warned the PCC at the time, but he did not listen. Instead he decided to announce the whole station would close."

"It is vitally important for the police to have a presence in Halesowen which is accessible to the public when incidents like this occur."

Councillor Bill Etheridge, a Sedgley councillor and Dudley's UKIP Euro MP, has called for Mr Jamieson to resign.

"We know there have been deep and damaging cuts to the police budget," said MEP Mr Etheridge. "But that budget is handled by the PCC, who has brought in a disgraceful station closure programme that has led us to the point where a group of vulnerable people on an outing cannot feel safe."

"It is time for Mr Jamieson to go and be replaced by someone who understands the first priority of policing should be public safety and not number crunching from behind a desk."

Last year more than 700 people signed a petition to save Halesowen police station, one of 28 in the area facing closure.

Mr Jamieson met with members of the Dudley Carers Forum, and said: "The concerns they have raised about the conduct of officers are being investigated thoroughly."



No haven - the carers were shocked to find that Halesowen police station had closed to the public

Prison for motorist who had a knife

A STOURBRIDGE man who claimed a knife stashed in his car was used for fly-fishing has been jailed.

Matthew Cooper had failed to stop when initially spotted by a police officer on patrol, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

After Cooper initially failed to halt, the officer then searched the car and found the wooden-handled knife, which had a

14cm blade, between the driver and passenger seats.

Cooper, of Queensway, Pedmore, claimed he had the knife as he used it for his fly-fishing hobby.

Display

Ms Blondelle Thompson, defending, said: "In terms of the knife, he said it was used for

fly-fishing and it wasn't on open display."

But Mr Gary Cook, prosecuting, told the court that the 38-year-old had two convictions relating to knives.

Recorder Ben Nicholls said: "There is widespread concern about people who routinely carry knives." Cooper admitted possession of a bladed article and was jailed for six months.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nightclub to have licence reviewed

A NIGHTCLUB in Dudley is to have its premises licence reviewed on the grounds of preventing 'crime and disorder'.

Rock Zombie, in King Street, will have its licence reviewed at a Dudley Council licensing committee meeting on Tuesday.

Violence broke out outside the venue on Christmas Day when thugs attacked a doorman with a machete and brandished a firearm.

It is already operating under tighter rules regarding opening hours and number of door staff.

Temple expansion set for green light

THE expansion of a huge temple complex in Tividale has been recommended for approval by planners.

Proposals for the 21-acre Balaji Temple - the biggest in Europe - now look set to be given the green light by Sandwell Council.

These set out a scheme to construct a 15-metre tall building to house a giant festival chariot, and to build a processional route around the site off Dudley Road East. It will provide facilities to hold the Hindu festival Ratha Yatra. The three-storey high chariot is due to be unveiled in August.

Traffic diversion during gas work

MOTORISTS will face disruption as a busy road through Tipton will be partially shut for gas main works.

Toll End Road will be made one-way heading towards New Road, Great Bridge, for a fortnight later this month. National Grid plans to carry out maintenance works from March 25 until April 8.

Traffic will be diverted via Horseley Road and Bridge Road during the works carried out by contractors Bal-four Beatty.

Drama students show their skills at college

DUDLEY students lit up the stage at Halesowen College when they performed a Shakespeare classic.

Pupils from The Brier, Cherry Tree and Ridgewood Schools performed Macbeth for friends, family and teachers.

The group have been studying drama at the college since September.

Natalie Guest, drama lecturer, said: "This is a regular partnership with the schools and the college which has been going for five years."

Carnival help needed

ORGANISERS of Halesowen's family carnival are looking for more sponsors and entertainers to tack back the revived community event. The carnival on July 2 in Highfield Parkwill feature the Jorvik Vikings group and a dog show. Call carnival chairman Stuart Henley on 07967 147367.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



MORE things misheard. A reader swears her father-in-law came out of hospital having had a sirloin drip.

ON hearing the above, another reader asked: "Are you sure it was a sirloin drip? Might it have been a saline trip?"

MOST memorable TV quote of the week came from Delia's Welsh mother, beginning to suspect her daughter is a lesbian, in Call the Midwife (BBC1): "I am not an unsophisticated woman. I have been to Jersey."

I SUGGESTED recently that the £50,000 warning signs installed at our local ford would do nothing to stop idiots trying to drive through. Sure enough, the recent downpours delivered the usual crop of stranded cars and drivers punching their dashboards as their ruined engines spouted steam. The only way to stop people chancing their luck in a flooded ford is to tow an old banger into the water and leave it half-submerged. They'll get the message.

SHOCK, horror! The Daily Mail reveals that when the debate on gay marriage began, the Queen was against it. So how many 88-year-old people were in favour?

I HAVE no idea whether the Queen wants us in or out of the EU. But there is the issue of her dignity. Under UK law we are subjects, she is the monarch and her title is "Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ire-



land and of Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith." Under EU law we are all equal citizens and her title, for voting purposes, is "Mrs E Windsor."

JOHN Longworth was forced to resign as director of the British Chambers of Commerce for supporting Britain quitting the EU. This allegedly compromised the BCC's neutral stance on the issue. So what if Longworth had spoken in favour of staying in the EU? Do you suspect for a moment that anyone would have batted an eyelid? Of course not. If you support the EU you may shout it from the rooftops. If you say it's time to quit, wait for the knock at the door. Hang on. I hear a knock . . .

I MUST have missed something in the report about a Scottish boy being stabbed to death in his school. The court heard that his 16-year-old killer frequently brought knives and other weapons into school and staff had spoken to him "once or twice." And that's it? Why did nobody tell the police that he was in possession of an offensive weapon and let the law take its course?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Sunday trading extension 'unpopular'

A SURVEY of thousands of Dudley residents has found overwhelming opposition to Government plans to change Sunday trading laws.

The survey was conducted by Dudley North MP Ian Austin and found nearly nine in 10 residents are opposed to extend Sunday opening hours for large shops.

The MP also met with shop workers in Parliament to hear their views.

Mr Austin decided to consult residents ahead of votes on Government proposals that would give councils the power to extend opening hours.

He sent a detailed survey to 5,000 residents and received more than 1,000 responses.

More than 80 per cent of residents opposed plans to devolve Sunday trading or felt decisions on Sunday trading should be made nationally.

They also expressed concerns for shop workers, with eight in 10 saying they felt they were put under too much pressure to work on Sundays.

Vote

Mr Austin will vote against the Government proposals. He said: "When I was a Dudley councillor in the 1990s I asked local people for their views on Conservative plans

to allow Sunday trading. There was massive opposition to the changes back then and in my latest survey nine in 10 residents say that they're against extended Sunday opening hours for large shops.

"Local people clearly don't want the current rules changed, they want a balance between trade, convenience and family life. I'll be voting against these changes in Parliament."

Surge in bookings at charity-run civic hall

By Clare Butler

BOSSSES at a civic hall in the Black Country which has seen a surge in bookings say they will bring more 'vibrant' acts to the centre.

The increase in commercial bookings at Brierley Hill Civic Hall has helped Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) open up the venue to local community groups to put on their own events at discounted rates.

They only have 10 free Friday and Saturday evenings left for bookings this year.

Now a weekly 'cheesy' music Friday night out is being planned to start from next month.

Andy Gray, Dudley CVS chief officer, said: "We are a not-for-profit charity which supports local voluntary and community groups throughout Dudley borough. The revenue from commercial events at Brierley Hill Civic Hall is being reinvested into the voluntary sector.

"This enables us to offer the Civic Hall for community users.

Vibrant

"Our aim is to see Brierley Hill Civic Hall as a vibrant and accessible venue for all sorts of community activities, subsidised by income from commercial events.

Local voluntary events include The Dudley Youth Council Awards, Whitehouse Cancer Support Band Night and Synergy Group, which have all enjoyed subsidised rates for events at the Civic Hall.

In recent years Brierley Hill Civic Hall has been largely under-used and struggled to be financially viable.

The Big Cheesy Nights are part of a new era for the building. They will showcase the sounds of Abba and Wham, among others.

Boxing and wrestling nights have also been drawing in the crowds, as have comedy club nights and parties.

A new website will also be launched in the coming weeks with details of events at the venue.

Awards given to NHS health workers



Nicholas Owen, far right, with some health workers recognised by the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust

STAFF at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust have been recognised for their dedication and commitment to patient care at their annual staff awards.

More than 300 staff gathered at The Venue in Dudley on March 3 for the awards ceremony hosted by former TV news reader and royal correspondent, Nicholas Owen.

He thanked the NHS personally for the care and treatment he received when he was diagnosed with kidney cancer in 2002.

Individuals and teams based both in the hospital and out in the community who go the extra mile for their patients were presented with awards by Trust directors and senior members of staff.

The Trust took time out from the main awards to honour shift leader Hugh Davies who tragically died in a motorbike accident last year.

Staff joined new Chairman Jenni Ord in paying tribute to Hugh, ending with a standing ovation. In his memory, nominees who narrowly missed the award's shortlist were recognised and commended.

Rounding off the evening, Jenni Ord said: "It has been my privilege to share the evening with you and to learn about some of the fantastic services and staff commitment here at The Dudley Group.

"I am sure we have all seen and felt the care, respect and responsibility shown by all the nominees. Long may it continue for all our patients and public."

Get on your marks for the Sport Relief Mile event

A KEEP fit campaign has been welcomed by leading figures as the Sport Relief Mile returns to Dudley.

Sport Relief is taking place nationally between Friday and Sunday, March 18 to 20, with the Dudley Mile being held at 11.30am on the Sunday at the Dell Stadium in Brierley Hill.

It will pass through the Dell Recreation Ground and the Brockmoor nature reserve with competitors setting off at noon and completing three or six mile courses.

The event is being sponsored by Sainsbury's to raise money for people living in the poorest communities. People are being encouraged to participate through fundraising or by getting sponsored. Half of the money raised will be spent in the UK, with the other half used to help overseas.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "It is encouraging to know that the people of Dudley borough are again taking up the challenge and signing up for the Sport Relief Mile.

"It doesn't matter how fit we are because if we can't run the mile, we can jog or walk it. It really is the taking part that counts."

Programme manager Dean Hill, said: "The Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile in Dudley is everyone's opportunity to be physically active for a good cause.

"All ages and abilities, old and young, beginner to elite athlete, can take part and feel proud of themselves on this special day."

Motorcyclist has serious leg injury

A MOTORCYCLIST suffered a leg injury in a crash in Kingswinford.

The man, in his 20s, was involved in a collision with a car on Thursday, March 10, at 1.30pm at the junction of Stallings Lane and Charterfield Drive.

The rider needed advanced trauma care after West Midlands Ambulance Service sent an ambulance, a community paramedic and a critical care paramedic from the central accident resuscitation emergency team.

An ambulance service spokeswoman said: "The motorcyclist had ended up coming to rest approximately 20 feet further down the road from where the collision happened. He was found to have sustained a nasty lower leg injury."

He was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Easter fun and games at the safari park

WEST Midland Safari Park, near Bewdley, is gearing up to host its annual Easter Extravaganza. Activities and competitions will be available to families as part of the standard admission price from March 19 to April 17. For details visit www.wmsp.co.uk website.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

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area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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Volunteers needed for new group library role

VOLUNTEERS will help take over the running of libraries and other services in Dudley under plans to save Dudley Council around £1.5 million over the next two years.

The cash-strapped authority is pressing ahead with the plans as it battles to cut £20m. The move would see the council save around 30 per cent – or £1,526,000 – by 2017/18 as part of the new arrangements.

Libraries, the borough's archives and adult learning services would all come under the new 'umbrella' organisation set up by the authority.

The group, known as a 'public service mutual', would run each of the departments as a not-for-profit organisation for an initial five-year period.

Consultation

A three-month long consultation has taken place with councillors to formalise arrangements in April for the new body to be set up.

The mutual is run by and for its members and employees who have a say in running the organisation. The move can result in a range of savings with including cuts of around £200,000 in business rates on properties.

A recruitment drive is under way for a voluntary chairman and treasurer with the council advertising the roles on the board.

Councillor Rachel Harris, who is overseeing the project, said: "It is intended that the mutual will go live in 2016."

Armed thieves steal shop cash

TWO armed robbers threatened staff at a Brierley Hill shop before making off with the takings.

The robbers, brandishing either baseball bats or pieces of wood, helped themselves to the till in One Stop Shop, on Turners Lane and demanded a staff member open the safe.

The pair then went around the back of the counter and emptied the till, before escaping on foot.

The raid happened at at around 8.45pm on February 4 and Pc Dave Hackett said: "We believe the offenders could be local."

Anyone with information should contact Pc Hackett at Brierley Hill police station on 101 or email contactus@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Appeal is made for blood donors

BLOOD donors can attend a session at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on April 14, between 2pm and 3.30pm and between 4.30pm and 7.30pm.

Appointments can be booked on 0300 123 23 23 or at my.blood.co.uk

Car was sold in danger of exploding

THE boss of a Black Country car dealership has been jailed for selling dangerous vehicles which were unfit for the road.

The Lyde Green Motor Centre in Cradley sold cars which had numerous faults, including problems with brakes and steering. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. One car had the potential to explode, such was its dangerous state. The faults became clear almost immediately after they were purchased and buyers were 'given the runaround' as they tried to recoup their money.

Company director Mohammed Khabeer was jailed for a year after admitting six offences relating to unfair trading.

Recorder Barry Berlin told him he 'must have

known' about the dangerous condition the cars were in. Khabeer, aged 39, had previously been jailed for more than 30 offences relating to clocking cars. The recorder said Khabeer had not learned his lesson. The company, which is no longer trading, was also fined £21,000.

Complaints were made by two customers relating to a BMW X5 and a Saab which were purchased from the dealership on Lyde Green in December 2014. The BMW was bought for £12,800 and had numerous faults. The seats were loose, the headlights weren't working and the electrics were faulty.

The £1,900 Saab was in an even worse state. It pulled to the left and on further examination the suspension was found to be badly corroded. Prob-

lems with its exhaust meant carbon dioxide could have got into the passenger cabin and that the battery was insecure, which meant there a 'potential for explosion'.

The buyer of the BMW was turned away when he tried to get a refund, while another did manage to get his money back but only after being 'given the runaround'.

Sunit Sandhu, defending Khabeer, of Madison Avenue, Hodgehill, said the cars were bought by the company with MOT certificates and hundreds of other cars had been sold without any complaints.

Recorder Berlin said the cars were 'in an appalling state and the people who bought them treated in an appalling way'.

Transformation of old hospital gets started

BUILDING work has started on more than 150 homes at a landmark former hospital site in Dudley.

After three months of preparations, developer Wates Living Space Homes got started on the former Guest Hospital site off Tipton Road.

Wates is working alongside Dudley Council and the Homes and Communities Agency to overhaul the site to provide new housing.

The scheme is being named Butler's Crescent in tribute to the renowned Black Country architect, Albert Thomas Butler, who was responsible for modifications to the hospital building.

The development will be made up of 127 new-build homes, 30 refurbished properties and the full restoration of the former porter's lodge.

Architect Armstrong Burton has designed the project and construction is due to be finished in the summer of 2019.

Wates managing director Joanne Jamieson said: "Commencing work on site brings to fruition years of careful planning and will see us deliver a significant project for Dudley that will provide high quality, affordable and energy efficient homes for the area. We will be using our presence to create training and employment opportunities for the local community and will draw on a network of local businesses from Dudley and the Black Country to help us deliver the scheme.

Impact

"It is our express intention to ensure our role in this exciting project not only results in new housing but also generates a sustainable economic impact for the borough."

Of the homes, 118 will be sold on the open market and 39 will be available for rent through Dudley Council.

Construction on the site, across the road from the Black Country Living Museum, comes after years of planning for homes on the site.

Seven years ago the hospital was taken off the hands of the NHS by the Homes and Communities Agency for houses. Four years ago Wates was appointed developer, but mine shafts and limestone works forced alterations to the project.

The hospital closed more than a decade ago after most departments moved to Russells Hall Hospital. It was built by the Earl of Dudley in 1849 for injured miners, before chainmaker Joseph Guest turned it into a general hospital.

The abandoned site was used by the makers of forthcoming horror movie *She Who Brings Gifts*, with Glenn Close and Gemma Arterton.



Work begins on clearing part of the former Guest Hospital, off Tipton Road, Dudley, for housing



A plan of housing for the site off Tipton Road



Official launch of the building work at the ex-hospital

NEWS IN BRIEF

Council leader backs police move

THE leader of Dudley Council has said he has 'no problem' with the closure of the town's police station, insisting that keeping as officers in their jobs was more important.

West Midlands Police announced last year it would be closing 28 front desk stations, including Dudley, to save cash.

Speaking at a West Midlands Police and Crime Panel meeting, Dudley Council leader Pete Lowe said: "We have to drive down costs. This is why I had no problem not defending the closure of Dudley Police Station."

It's whisky galore at two-day festival

THE Midlands Whisky Festival is returning to Stourbridge Town Hall next month.

The festival will take place over two days, Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2, and offers the chance for connoisseurs to try a range of rare whiskies.

There will also be master classes running from experts including master blender Richard Paterson, which has already sold out, and with Laphroaig's John Campbell, Diageo's Colin Dunn and Ashok Chokalingam.

Advance tickets cost from £35 available at www.whiskyfest.co.uk website.

Jobs fair aimed at young people

A JOBS fair targeting unemployed 19 to 24-year-olds is being held in Dudley today (Thursday).

People are being encouraged to go along to the fair where jobs will be available to apply for. Training expert The Workshop, together with the National Careers Service and Job Centre Plus, is hosting the 4pm to 7pm event in Dudley at The Village Hotel.

Jobs and training in engineering, customer service, warehouse and business administration are featured.

The science of fun at community gardens

A fun-filled day of science experiments will be taking place at community gardens in Dudley.

Jasmine Road Community Gardens will be hosting on a day of science-based activities on Saturday.

Everyone is invited along to take part in experiments, to find out about the chemistry of the soil, or use an electron microscope and find out about bugs with pond dipping.

There will also be music and drama at the event, which starts at 10am.

In the swing at park


AN afternoon of music from the swing era is being presented in a Dudley town centre park. The Friends of Priory Park and The Green are putting on the Easter Sunday event on March 27 from 2.30pm with The People's Orchestra will be performing music from Glenn Miller and other favourites.

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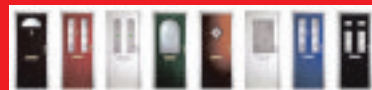
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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



So now the Met Office dictates the seasons

A FEW days ago, when we were being told to prepare for the coldest day of the year, and the early-morning frost was thick and cold, one of the weather forecasters on the radio commented that it seemed "more like spring than winter".

Well, there is good reason for this. For hundreds of years we have managed perfectly well using the Vernal Equinox, which usually falls around March 20-21, as the first day of spring. And then, a few years ago, the Met Office took it upon itself to move the date to March 1. On whose authority was this decision taken? Do you remember being consulted?

It seems the reason for the change was to make life a bit easier when it comes to recording data. Well, I'm sorry, the Met Office can record its data however it sees fit, but the weather forecasters have an overblown sense of their own importance if they think it falls to them to decide when our seasons start and end.

It would be almost as pompous as four local authorities taking it upon themselves to redefine the Black Country to suit their boundaries. Just as well that would never happen.

□□□

ON that subject, it wouldn't be March without our civic leaders heading to the South of France for the annual town-planning jamboree in Cannes. Funny it's never in Bilston, isn't it?

The latest plan is for a "Black Country Garden City", which sounds suspiciously like the 1960s New Town developments which brought us the unparalleled beauty of Skelmersdale and Milton Keynes.

Look, I'm all for transforming brown-field sites around the area to create much-needed housing. What I am less keen on is the idea of linking together 31 different and disparate communities to form a single "city", which will inevitably blur local identities, and possibly threaten our existing town centres which have taken enough of a kicking.

Could you imagine anyone merging Norwich and Ipswich together, to create an East Anglia Garden City? Or Newcastle, Durham and Sunderland? So why is it okay for us?

Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and West Bromwich are all big and important enough to stand on their own two feet, at least if the will is there from the people who make the big decisions.

Instead of dreaming about garden cities, our leaders should be straining every sinew to ensure our existing towns and cities can compete on an equal footing with other parts of the country. And fighting for each of their very distinct identities.

Apparently, the garden city idea came from a competition entry which also suggested rebranding Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell under a single identity - Albion. Yes. That would have gone down well on the South Bank...



The Dunn family pictured in the early 1990s, before tragedy struck



Five-year-old Charlotte Dunn was killed in Dunblane 20 years ago



Cradley C of E Primary School is launching Charlotte's award

'We'll never get over losing our daughter'

A little girl whose life was taken 20 year ago is remembered at a Black Country school, **DAVID COSGROVE reports**

'WE lost a daughter and we will never recover from that'.

These are the heart-breaking words of Martyn Dunn, the father of a Black Country girl murdered in the Dunblane massacre 20 years ago.

As the nation remembers the 20th anniversary of the horrific shootings, the Cradley school where tragic young victim Charlotte Dunn once attended has now launched a prize in her memory.

Cradley C of E Primary School created the Charlotte Dunn Award after discussions with her parents. Charlotte, aged five, grew up in the Black Country and spent her reception year at Cradley C of E Primary before moving to Scotland with her family.

But just nine months later she was murdered alongside 15 other pupils and one teacher at Dunblane Primary School on March 13, 1996 when gunman Thomas Hamilton opened fire.

Cradley headteacher Marcia Harris, who taught Charlotte in reception, said: "The award will be a character award and will be given to a child who exemplifies our school values."

Remember

Charlotte had penned a letter to her former classmates just weeks before her life was cruelly snuffed out. This said how Charlotte loved her new teacher Gwen Mayor, who also died, almost as much as she loved her reception teacher at Cradley Marcia Harris, who is now the school's head.

Mrs Harris spoke of Charlotte as a bubbly, bright girl who was full of promise. She said: "We've got a lot of memories of her from the year she was with us."

"I had the privilege of being her first teacher and just remember her being a shining little star - that's absolutely what she was. Char-



Charlotte's parents Barbara and Martyn, returned to Scotland to be close to other Dunblane parents

lotte was shy, beautiful, had lots of friends and was a clever little girl. At the time she loved The Lion King.

"I remember Martyn used to be working in Scotland and used to travel back. One Friday afternoon she brought her dad to meet me because he was home early and I can remember how excited she was."

"What happened had a huge impact on the community here."

The school still sends flowers annually to mark Charlotte's birthday and the anniversary of the massacre. Prayers are held at the school every year on March 13 to give thanks for Charlotte's life.

Mrs Harris said she has become close friends with Mr and Mrs Dunn and chose to name her own daughter Emily Charlotte to pay tribute to her former pupil.

The new award will be presented by Char-

lotte's parents Barbara and Martyn at the school's Easter church service on the last day of term, Thursday, March 24.

Mr Dunn, 55, said the award would both honour his daughter's memory and reward the efforts of current children.

He said: "Twenty-one years ago Marcia was Charlotte's teacher and after the events of Dunblane she was in touch and very upset that one of her past children had been taken away from the world."

"Since then we've kept in touch and she has become a very close friend. She always remembers Charlotte and sends flowers for birthdays and anniversaries."

"It's nice that Cradley Primary still continues to remember Charlotte 20 years later and when we visited the children all knew who we were - Charlotte's mum and dad. We wanted to present an award in honour of Charlotte

and to reward some of the children from the school."

Mrs Harris added: "This year Barbara and Martyn came to see me at Christmas and said they would like to fund a Charlotte Dunn award. Teachers will put pupils' names forward and it will be based on character."

Charlotte, aged five, moved to Scotland with her family from their home in Apperley Way, Cradley.

Mr Dunn said the family will never fully recover from Charlotte's death but are continuing to move along the grieving process.

"It's terrible, we lost a daughter and we will never fully recover from that."

However, out of the tragedy Mrs Dunn said he and his wife had forged new friendships, particularly with Pamela and Kenny Ross, whose five-year-old daughter Joanna was also killed.

They were the last two couples left in a waiting room at Dunblane Primary to find out about their children's fate. That shared experience forged a special bond between the parents.

Following the massacre, which saw its 20th anniversary on Sunday, Mr Dunn, his wife and son Alex returned to the Midlands from Dunblane to Kidderminster. But just a year later they moved back to the Stirlingshire town - where they still live - to take advantage of the comfort provided by being close to the other bereaved families.

Ex-Scout leader Thomas Hamilton, 43, first cut the school's telephone wires before making his way to the gym hall armed with four legally-held handguns and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

Inside the gym, 28 primary year one pupils were preparing for PE class as he entered and began shooting, killing 16 children and teacher Gwen Mayor and injuring 15 others. He then turned the gun on himself.

Dr Mick North, whose five-year-old daughter Sophie was killed, said the positive legacy should not be forgotten - that people are safer from gun crime. He said: "The 20th anniversary is a time when those too young to remember might learn about what happened and consider its significance. Handguns were banned - surely a legacy worth reflecting upon two decades later?"

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Immigration is key Euro issue

WATCHING young mothers talking to the media on TV about the in and out at Europe, most of them seemed to be coming down on the side of staying – the main concern being the economy.

I have to tell them that if the vote is staying in, their children will have difficulty finding a school place, the sick will find difficulty finding a hospital bed, the young who are looking for a home will find a home harder to obtain.

Also, the old will find it hard to find a

Better off out of EU machine

THE latest pro-EU spin story is that if we leave the EU, France will no longer process migrants that end and they will be allowed to just cross the channel unimpeded? What nonsense!

Once we are out of Europe, the 'freedom of movement' legislation will no longer apply, so anyone wishing to travel here will have their passport checked on departure and on arrival.

If they do not have the relevant visas/paperwork they will be put on the first boat back.

We will no longer be forced to 'take a quota' of refugees as we will be out of the EU machine.

We currently haemorrhage £50m per day into Europe. On leaving we could reinvest just two per cent of that into our own border control (making our borders the most secure and best-funded in Europe) and we would still be £49m a day better off!

Leave the EU = No more need for cuts and austerity.

It's a 'no brainer'!
M WILKES
Dudley

nursing home and everyone will find it harder to get a job.

That's because the overriding reason, above all else, to vote out is immigration. Staying in the European Union will mean our borders will still be open to hundreds of thousands from across Europe and beyond.

We buy more from Europe than they sell to us – and they will still want to sell to us.

J BROWN
Blackheath

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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EMAIL

dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Tories vote to take £30 from disabled

I WAS brought up in the belief that politicians were meant to help and do good for people. How wrong I was!

I feel outraged that my Member of Parliament for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, James Morris, has just voted along with his Conservative Party to cut benefit to the disabled by £30 per week.

To get this miserable, evil act to become law the Tories, after being defeated twice in the House of Lords, forced it through claiming 'financial privilege' as the Commons have the final say on budgetary measures.

To pick upon the most vulnerable in society like this is, to me, despicable, but sadly firmly in line with

Tory philosophy of hammering the most vulnerable.

Mr Morris, who started a petition in a bid to stop closure of the police station, seems to be under the illusion that cuts have nothing to do with him when they are in his own area. However, we see the real James Morris as he votes for cuts to the disabled. It takes my breath away. It wasn't so long ago, in July 2015 that MPs took a £7,000 pay rise and here they are now taking £30 pounds from disabled people.

Nye Bevan, the founder of the National Health Service, famously said: "So far as I am concerned Tories are lower than vermin."

C STOLL
Halesowen

First beggar in our village

I HAVE lived in Coseley for a few years and I love it.

I go into Roseville daily to do my bit of shopping as I like to support my local shops.

On my visit there today, I parked the car up, got my veg and proceeded to walk down the street to get other items of shopping.

What I saw shocked me – a beggar sat in the street who asked me for money, I could not believe it, I have never seen this before in our little village.

I have seen this in Wolverhampton and Birmingham – they are cities and you unfortunately expect it. But Roseville! It cut me to the core.

I empathize with people who are perhaps homeless. But where are the community police officers that I used to see regularly? We do not need this.

D WOOD
Coseley

'Mom' still the word for me

SOME years ago I was at a writers' weekend in Sussex with editors of a magazine I had been contributing to.

Each writer had to write a story to be discussed.

The only criticism my story had was that I had called my main character 'mom'.

It was even suggested that I had done this deliberately to draw the attention of the editors of the American edition, who were also present.

Well, it's always been 'mom' in my family and every other family I have known. 'Mom's the word'.

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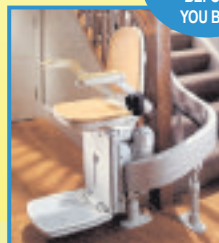
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Driver in tragic crash 'must have dozed off'

A POSTMAN who caused the death of a father-of-eight by careless driving must have dozed off at the wheel before the crash, a court heard.

Sajid Hussain, aged 36, from Black-acre Road, Dudley, was at the wheel of a red Volkswagen Polo that struck 47-year-old David Hinton as he was putting one of his children into his green Peugeot 206 on a Dudley street.

Hussain had not eaten for ten and a half hours as he had been observing Ramadan.

The accident happened at Oakham Road, near to its junction with Tansley Hill Road, on June 20 last year. Mr Hinton, from Halesowen, died in hospital the following day. Mr Hinton's children and 34-year-old wife Nadine were treated for minor injuries.

Hussain at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week was handed an eight-month jail term suspended for two years and ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work. He was banned from driving for three years and will face an extended re-test before he can get behind the wheel again.

Mr Simon Ward, prosecuting, said that 'the only conclusion' for Hussain veering into Mr Hinton's parked car at around 2pm was 'that he must have dozed off'. His vehicle was travelling around the 30mph speed limit.

A personal statement from Mrs Hinton, read out in court, stated that 'the children are struggling to come to terms with the loss of their father'.

Miss Samantha Powis, defending, said Hussain was a 'respectable, hard-working, law-abiding man', adding: 'He doesn't remember feeling tired. He is absolutely horrified at what he has done.'

The court heard Hussain had not eaten any food since 3.30am on the day of the crash. A medical examination found no abnormalities which would have explained him blacking out.



Sajid Hussain 'horrified' by the tragedy



Halesowen father-of-eight David Hinton

Man died after fall in Qatar

A BUILDER from Kingswinford died after falling from a first-floor window of an apartment in Qatar.

David Allport, aged 57, of Larch Road, had been working in the Middle Eastern country. He was in a coma for six weeks, and looked to be improving but then he suffered internal bleeding. His life support machine was switched off when it became apparent there more could be done to save him.

David Reid, assistant coroner for Worcestershire, told Worcester Cor-

oner's Court: "He was staying in an apartment. It is a very hot country, and the air conditioning wasn't working. It appears that he went to open an already open window, where there was no railing to stop him falling."

Mr Allport died on October 11 last year. Cause of death was cardiac arrest as a result of septic shock.

Mr Reid said: "The evidence is so lacking it is impossible to come to a conclusion on the balance of probability. I record an open conclusion."

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HOLIDAY home owners at a five star park in the heart of Herefordshire are loving all of the improvements which have been made to the facilities over the winter period.

Pearl Lake Leisure Park in Shobdon is situated just 90 minutes from the West Midlands and is creating a stir as many new owners give the thumbs-up to the newly upgraded facilities.

"We just felt that the time was right to invest some additional money into the park" said Glenn Jones, who owns the park with his wife Hannah.

"Each year we have a winter work improvements programme while the park is closed; but this year, we had a meeting with the team and decided to push the boat out!"

Tirelessly

And push the boat out they did - on a very tight schedule too!

The park is only closed for eight weeks in January and February, but the team worked tirelessly to complete a whole host of refurbishments and additions. "One of the things we love, is the way that the park has thought of something for everyone - nature lovers, golf players, and families have all been catered for," said one of the estate holiday home owners from the park.

"My family have been here for 14 years and the park just keeps getting better and better"

In addition to the extra facilities such as extended dog walks through the eight acres of woodland; an enclosed



Some of the holiday homes set amongst the beautiful backdrop of Pearl Lake



The lovely purpose-built oak bar which echoes the rustic surroundings

dog paddock and a huge den building area with zip line for the young at heart - located on the north shore of Pearl Lake is a new wildlife hide where many species of birds and small animals have already been spotted.

The jewel in the crown is the refurbishment to the on park bar, restaurant and recreation room - all of which have been completely made over.

Owners can now enjoy the new modern surroundings complete with a purpose-built oak bar, with the eating and

drinking facilities offering everything from Sunday carvery to barista style coffees on comfy leather sofas.

The recreation room adjacent to the bar is a fantastic indoor space complete with library, children's play area, pool, table tennis and wifi zone.

Pearl Lake Leisure Park stocks new and pre-owned holiday homes to suit all budgets. Call 01568 708326 for a full information pack or to book a visit.

More details can be found on the website www.pearllake.co.uk

No jail for teacher who had child pornography

A **PERVERT** headteacher who had 'disgusting' child pornography on his computer has walked free from court.

Ross Workman, aged 51, the former head of Oldswinford CoE Primary School in Stourbridge, had more than 500 images – 88 of which were placed in the worst category by police.

Despite this, he was given a community order and walked free from the dock at Wolverhampton Crown Court last Wednesday.

The images – branded 'disgusting' by Judge James Burbidge QC – featured youngsters aged between eight and 12. They had been downloaded by Workman between January 5 and March 7, 2011, before he became headteacher and while he was taking a three-and-a-half-year break from the profession.

Deleted

He had deleted all the images by the time the house in Orwell Close, Stourbridge – where he lived alone – was visited by the police from the Online Child Sexual Exploitation Team.

They seized his computer equipment for analysis on November 3, 2014, and had specialist equipment to retrieve deleted pictures and videos. He was not charged until January 4 this year and left his post on January 31.

Mr Nicholas Berry, prosecuting, said: "He said he regarded pornography as a stress reliever and looked at it most days. He admitted going through a phase of looking at indecent images of children. He said he knew it was wrong and tried to stop."

Miss Judith Kenney, defending, said: "He has paid a huge price for something he did a long time ago when his life was in turmoil. He is highly remorseful."



Judge Burbidge said teacher Ross Workman had lost the job he loved

Workman, of Low Fold Close, Worcester, admitted six charges of making an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child. He was given a three-year community order on condition he completes a sex offender treatment programme, was put on the Sex Offenders Register and banned from working with children.

Judge Burbidge told him: "You are an intelligent man described as honest, open, kind and considerate but clearly you had a secret for some period in your life. You downloaded disgusting

images but did not continue to view them. Your arrest came at a time when you taught children and were in a position of trust. One can only wonder what the parents thought, but there is no suggestion you breached that trust. You acted entirely appropriately while a headteacher."

He told Workman when giving him the community order: "I am able to do this because of the punishment you already received in losing the job you loved – and you gave up this practice before your arrest."

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Expansion pays off as sales soar

DW Windows Ltd has gone from strength to strength over the last 12 months since renovating its new premises in Meadow Lane, Coseley, creating one of the largest showrooms in the Midlands and generating 14 new jobs for local people.

The company's turnover has increased by 30 per cent and is well on target to double in the next couple of years.

Proud

The new state-of-the-art showroom and head office has plenty of space to allow future expansion into new areas and of course enables DW Windows Ltd to showcase many of its market leading products.

The showroom has eight conservatories and orangeries, a couple of porches and dozens of windows and doors on display, allowing customers to see, touch and feel before they invest their hardearned money.

Company director Dave Walters states: "It's been the best business decision I have ever made, opening the new place.

"The response from everyone who visits is overwhelming as the design, planning and creation of Meadow Lane is all my own doing and it really makes me proud when people congratulate me on what I have achieved. The increase in business speaks for itself.

"I am not a businessman, I am a window fitter by trade, from Bilston and have succeeded by doing the best job I can and being as honest and reliable as I can be," Dave adds.

"I try to install this work ethic into all of my staff. I have a great team around me now and I couldn't do this without them. All I ask of my fitters is to do the job better than if they were doing it in their own home and this pays off as six out of 10 of the new jobs we do are for repeat customers or recommendations."



DW Windows Ltd - Brand New 7600 square feet showroom over two floors

Success

Steve Bull, former England and Wolves legend, opened the new showroom in July last year which was a massive success and since then the phone just hasn't stopped ringing.

They are doing 40-50 quotations per week and since the open day have completed almost 500 new installations ranging from orangeries to single windows or doors. January has been the best on record with a 50 per cent increase in business on January 2015.

DW Windows Ltd are now nearing the end of their first 10 years of trading and are looking forward to the next 10 years.

Great gran in a piracy battle over flop movie

THE family of an 83-year-old woman who was accused of illegally downloading a Robert Redford film have vowed to fight a demand for £600.

Bilston great grandmother Patricia Drew says she was stunned when copyright holder TCYK LLC wrote to her accusing her of pirating the box office flop *The Company You Keep*.

Mrs Drew's son, Dave, from Dudley, described the American firm's claims as 'laughable'. He has called for law-makers to plug a legal loophole allowing firms to 'exploit' unsuspecting members of the public.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has joined the fight and has written to Business Secretary Sajid Javid calling for action to protect consumers and said he would raise the issue in Parliament.

Solitaire

Mr Drew, aged 59, said: "My mother can just about manage to turn the computer on and generally uses it to play solitaire. She has a Facebook page which was set up for her but she doesn't really know how to use it. It is quite laughable that anyone could accuse her of downloading a film."

The letter was sent last month and accuses Mrs Drew of infringing copyright by downloading the film at 2.11am on April 25, 2013. It said that if she accepted liability and paid a settlement of £600 she could avoid having to attend court. The firm sent her a letter containing similar information last November.

TCYK LLC, which has initials that are an acronym for the film's name, successfully launched a court action ordering Sky to provide details of account holders matching a specified list of IP addresses. The firm is then alleged to have instructed financial ser-



Great grandmother Patricia Drew has been threatened with legal action



Dudley North MP Ian Austin is calling for action to protect consumers

vices firm Hatton & Berkeley to send out thousands of letters to Sky broadband customers demanding payment for illegally downloading the Redford film.

Robert Croucher, boss of Hatton & Berkeley, said the letters were part of

a 'pre-action protocol', which occurs before legal action is enacted.

"They don't actually make a demand for money," he added.

A statement on the TCYK LLC said: "We are still very concerned about the theft of our intellectual property."

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Royal approval as princess opens new canal centre

PRINCESS Anne took a boat trip along a Black Country canal as she officially opened a £3 million visitor and heritage centre in Dudley.

As the sun shone across Dudley on Monday it was the perfect day for The Princess Royal to visit Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust.

Princess Anne arrived at The Portal, off Birmingham New Road, and was greeted by the Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho and his wife Jayne, before being introduced to management, including chief executive Nick Morris and several trustees.

Wearing a long green coat, she smiled and spoke to staff individually, taking the time to ask about their roles at the trust's new centre, which includes a purpose-built learning suite and restaurant called The Gongoozler.

The princess spoke to canal volunteer Julia Bird, who said: "She was very interested in what I had to say and particularly about the fact that I used to work for Kennet Horse Boat Company in Berkshire, as horses are one of her main passions."

The Princess Royal took a 45-minute boat trip through Lord Ward's Tunnel. The tour was led by Melvyn Wright, towpath manager, who explained the waterway's history. She also met children from Year 5 at Wren's Nest Primary School and unveiled a plaque to mark the opening.

The Princess Royal said: "I would like to say a big thank you for the way in which you have kept history alive." Before leaving Princess Anne was presented with a traditional canal style painted horse feeding bowl by artist and boat skipper Tim Yorke.



The Princess Royal with canal trust chairman Jeff Luesley and Lady in Waiting Margaret Hammond

Roadshow looks at crime of exploitation

ORGANISATIONS across Dudley have joined forces to highlight the dangers of child sexual exploitation (CSE), as the national awareness day approaches.

In support of the national day tomorrow (Friday, March 18), Dudley Council's CSE team is working with groups from across the borough's voluntary sector to deliver a roadshow to help keep children safe by profiling the crime.

The promotional stand will be in place in Sedgley town centre today (Thursday) and in Halesowen town centre tomorrow.

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services, said: "It's great to see organisations across our borough joining together to tackle such a serious issue. Child sexual exploitation is the most heinous of crimes and it can affect any child from any background in any area. It involves perpetrators grooming their victims by gaining their trust before emotionally and sexually abusing them. Every parent, professional and young person should know the signs of CSE and this roadshow will hopefully raise awareness of these."

Cruiser ban extended for two more years

AN INJUNCTION which has banned car cruising in the Black Country will be allowed to continue after a hearing in the High Court.

The introduction of the injunction in February 2015 has significantly reduced the problem and eradicated it altogether in many areas, The High Court, sitting in Birmingham, heard.

The Black Country-wide injunction bans drivers from taking part in a car cruise anywhere within Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall – or from promoting, organising or publicising any such event in those areas.

When the injunction was granted by the High Court in December 2014, His Honour Judge Owen directed there should be a review hearing 12 months after its implementation, at which the court would consider the effect of the injunction and decide whether it should be continued to February 2018. Last week the court permitted the continuation of the injunction.



Chief Inspector Jed White

had turned these local roads into a race track.

As well as deterring would-be car cruisers from gathering, four people who took part in car cruises have been convicted for contempt of court for breaching the injunction, with a further eight prosecutions pending.

Chief Inspector Jed White, of West Midlands Police, said: "Street racing is completely unacceptable and won't be tolerated. West Midlands Police welcome the extension of the ground-breaking ban on car cruisers."

"The injunction enables us, together with our partners, to continue to tackle those individuals who flout the laws of the road and pose a danger for innocent members of the public."

"The force recently launched Operation Hercules, a campaign which sees traffic officers patrolling major trunk roads popular with car cruisers, on the look-out for speeders and drivers of illegally modified vehicles."

Publishing tips at talk

DUDLEY Writers' Network is holding an event for authors to find out how to independently self publish.

Surgeon Andrew Slater, who has had two books published this way, will be giving advice in a talk at Kingswinford Library on Saturday, March 26, at 10.30am.

Places for the free event need to be reserved by calling the library on (01384) 812740.

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Bake-Off winner at food festival

A BIG celebration of food and drink is returning to the West Midlands this June.

The Foodies Festival will be at Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, from June 3-5, where Great British Bake-Off winner Nadiya Hussain will be showcasing her culinary skills and answering questions.

Top chefs will be at the three-day event, including 2010 MasterChef winner Dhruv Baker, and Nathan Eades from Birmingham Michelin star restaurant Simpsons.

There will be Cake & Bake demonstrations in the Tasting Theatre, chocolate making, sugar-craft, jams, gadgets and ingredients.

Friday adult tickets are priced at £10, and £8 for concessions. Saturday/Sunday adult tickets are £14, and £11 for concessions. A three-day adult ticket is £20, and £16 for concessions. Children aged 12 and under go free when accompanied by an adult. Tickets from www.foodiesfestival.com or by calling 0844 995 111.

New teaching recruits boost range of college's courses

HALESOWEN College is recruiting teaching staff in 17 departments as bosses aim to enhance training in the region.

Vacancies are up for grabs in accounting, animal care, bakery, beauty therapy, catering and childcare among other areas.

It comes as the college recently announced record numbers of students progressing on to university – with more than 800 taking their studies further last year.

Principal Keith Bate said: "The vast majority of teaching staff at the college have progressed their careers through training within the organisation and many have been promoted to senior teaching and management jobs.

"As a large local employer it is incumbent on us to invest in the local economy and enhance education and training possibilities for local people that would not otherwise be available. Halesowen College is continuing its commitment to being an exemplary local employer recognised for the most capable, committed and caring staff."

Opportunities

He added: "A key aim of the organisation is to be the leading centre for training in education and learning within the region and with this in mind new job and training opportunities are planned for September 2016."

Each year the college provides teacher-training places based on a one-year full-time or two-

year part-time programme through the post-16 initial teacher training programme, with the University of Worcester.

Job vacancies are also available in IT, Fashion, Graphic Design, Maths and English, with hopes that new staff will be taking up their roles from September.

Last year the college also began to provide alternative higher education routes for students, including part-time and employment options linked with apprenticeships.

The college is holding an open day on Saturday, March 19, from 10am to 2pm. Celebrations will mark back 50 years to the college's beginnings in 1966 and the Whittingham Road campus will swing to the sounds of the 1960s hit parade.

Society helps dreams charity

STAFF at the Tipton and Coseley Building Society will play a part in helping to make dreams come true for seriously and terminally ill children.

The society has announced Promise Dreams as its 2016 charity partner.

Promise Dreams, whose patrons include former Wolves star Steve Bull, television presenter Suzi Perry and footballer Don Goodman, helps children from birth to 18.

Amy Johnson, a co-ordinator at Promise Dreams, said: "Without the support of people in the local community we quite simply would not be able to create so many magical smiles for our special families."

Lee Judson, the Tipton's general manager sales and marketing, said: "We have a jam-packed calendar of fundraising activities planned for the remainder of the year including The Great Tipton Bake-Off."

Thieves target ex-offenders



Boss Steve Tracey pictured after burglars broke into Good News Recycling, Kingswinford

THIEVES have stolen thousands of pounds worth of equipment from a Kingswinford charity that helps ex-offenders get their lives back on track.

Steve Tracey from Good News Recycling said he had been left 'heartbroken' by the raid. He discovered the building had been targeted when he went to open the centre in Stallings Lane on Monday morning (March 7).

The raiders had forced their way inside after cutting a padlock off the gate and smashing a window at the rear of the building. Power tools, £360 of charity money and two laptops were also taken between 8pm on the Sunday and 7am Monday.

The charity is linked with Dudley Police's Offender Management Team so former offenders can use their skills to renovate furniture that can then be sold to help vul-

nerable people. Mr Tracey, 48, who set up the business six years ago, said: "I couldn't believe that when I opened up the following day everything was trashed and all our tools and equipment had gone."

"Myself and my business partner, Luke Thomas, were mortified to see the damage done. We made a list of all the equipment taken so far and we think we have a total of about £15,000 worth. This includes grinders, generators, hedgecutters, lawn mowers, saws and cordless drills."

"It is absolutely heartbreaking for us – it has meant we have had to cancel community jobs such as house clearances and gardening for the elderly. These thieves have robbed the poor to give to themselves."

Anyone with information is asked to call Dudley Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Talk on the deadly 1916 Zeppelin raids

THE 100th anniversary of the devastating Black Country Zeppelin raids will be the subject of a history talk on Thursday, March 24.

Historian Ian Bott will be speaking to members of Clent History Society.

On January 31 nine German Zeppelin airships set out on a mission to bomb Liverpool but two became lost and dropped their bombs instead across Tipton, Bradley, Wednesbury and Walsall.

Seventy people died that night which was one of the deadliest air raids of the First World War.

The talk will be held in Clent Parish Hall, Church Avenue, from 8pm and everyone is welcome to attend.

Admission for non-members is £2.50, which includes tea, coffee and biscuits.

For details call society secretary Carole Hodgson on 01562 885759.

Beer, cider and rugby

A STOURBRIDGE brewery will be offering a choice of 25 ales at its next three-day beer festival.

Green Duck Brewery will also have up to 15 ciders in the event at its brewery tap The Badlyne Bar in Rufford Road on the Gainsborough Trading Estate.

The festival will run from 4pm to 11pm on Thursday, March 17, and 1pm to 11pm on the Friday and Saturday.

All the final Six Nations rugby matches will be shown on a big screen on Saturday.

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The Railway Bridge over the canal at Tettenhall



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Staffs & Worcs canal at Compton about 100 years ago

Lock where first earth was dug for canal link

IN 1766, exactly 250 years ago, a spade was thrust into the ground at Compton, and construction of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal began.

The Act of Parliament authorising this important link between the East coast via the River Trent, and the West coast via the River Severn, was passed on May 14, 1766, and work began soon after.

The first earth was dug at Compton lock, on what is the highest level of the canal.

The overall supervisor of the canal was James Brindley, who had built the Duke of Bridgewater's canal in Lancashire, and was also constructing the Trent & Mersey Canal.

Brindley was born in 1716, near Leek, and thus this year is the 300th anniversary of his

MEMORY LANE

birth. The actual construction of the canal was given to one of Brindley's pupil assistants, Thomas Dadford, who had been born near Stourton but was living in Wolverhampton at the time.

He and his sons went on to become major canal engineers in their own right.

The canal opened in 1772, as did the Birmingham Canal Navigations, which linked with it at Aldersley, rising through 21 locks to the centre of the City and onwards throughout the Black Country and Birmingham.

For the first time the coal and iron products of the region could be exported in bulk throughout the country, and

the world, and the industrial revolution was facilitated.

The canal reached the River Severn at Stourport, and at its other end joined the Trent & Mersey Canal at Great Heywood. Soon afterwards the Shropshire Union Canal to the North West also linked with the Staffs & Worcs, at Autherley Junction, half a mile from Aldersley and an important waterways crossroads was created.

The Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre, which sits only yards from the canal is planning an exhibition to celebrate the 250th anniversary and is seeking to borrow any related artefacts to add to its own small collection.

Open every Sunday, the Heritage Centre offers a free map for a self guided walk around the adjacent historic sites.



James Brindley who was canal pioneer

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Heading out into the Dandenong Ranges, that overlook Melbourne, take a ride through the lush mountainside from Belgrave to Emerald Lakeside on the historic 'Puffing Billy' steam train.

Australia's most spectacular coastal highway, the Great Ocean Road, is a breathtaking 300km drive through some of the best scenery the country offers. There are some great photo opportunities including the Twelve Apostles - huge pillars which loom out of the surf.

In Adelaide, a city sightseeing tour is included along with a visit to one of the most renowned wine regions in Australia, the Barossa Valley, for the chance to sample the produce.

Drive around 'The Alice' in Alice Springs stopping at Anzac Hill for panoramic views of the town and surrounding area and explore the MacDonnell Ranges stopping at Simpsons Gap, home to an important aboriginal site. Dinner is included at the Earth Sanctuary for a mouth-watering bush barbecue.

Admire the sun setting below Uluru on the distant horizon and the following day experience the first rays as it rises, before taking a guided 'Mala' walk around a section of the base.

Join the Kuranda Scenic Railway in Cairns for an amazing ride through dense tropical rainforests returning to the coast via the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway.

Head out to the Great Barrier Reef on a catamaran, with the opportunity to snorkel amongst the colourful parrot fish, corals and giant clams.

The final part of this amazing holiday is in Sydney. Enjoy a cruise around the beautiful harbour, see spectacular sights such as the Opera House and Harbour Bridge, and take a stroll on the famous Bondi Beach.

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DAYS: 4 DEPARTS: September 22



Buckingham Palace

Day excursion

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DAYS: 1 DEPARTS: Aug 28, Sept 29



Afternoon Tea at Chatsworth

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DAYS: 8 DEPARTS: Various dates



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DAYS: 6 DEPARTS: Various dates



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A unique fashion show is on its way in April

A prom and bridal dress fashion show

Calling all future brides and prom princesses, Dudley town centre is to be the venue for a unique, free, prom and wedding dress fashion show.

On Saturday April 9, local models will display some of Dudley's most beautiful prom and wedding dresses on a specially laid red carpet in the Churchill Shopping Centre.

Collection

The two, identical shows will take place at 11am and 2pm.

Stunning wedding dresses from I-do-2, register office Priory Hall's pre-loved wedding gown collection, and glamorous prom dresses from one of Dudley's newest shops, Love The Dress, on New Street, will be on show.

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for corporate and customer services, said:

"Your wedding and your prom are two of the most important dates in every woman's life.

"I hope that our fashion show will give would-be beauty queens ideas about what will suit them on their special day.

"We have some amazing dresses available in Dudley, and this event will give ladies the chance to see the glamour is on hand locally to allow them to shine."

Time for tea at Himley Hall with added dates

There's chance to indulge this spring with extra dates added to Himley Hall's popular afternoon tea sessions.

The hall has been running weekday bookings for its sweet treat since 2015 and has been fully booked for much of the year.

Due to customer demand, additional weekend dates have been added, with visitors to the historical hall and its beautiful parkland setting now able to enjoy an indulgent afternoon tea on Easter Saturday (March 26), St George's

Day (April 23) and Saturday, May 14. The tea includes the classic combination of ribbon sandwiches, scones with fruit conserve and cream, sweet pastries and a pot of tea.

Indulgent

Guests may also top up their indulgent afternoon tea with a glass of prosecco or a gin and tonic for a small extra charge.

Guests should arrive at Himley Hall at 2.15 pm, to be seated in one of the beautifully refur-

bished ground floor rooms by 2.30pm. Himley Hall is a commanding 18th century building set amongst 180 acres of Capability Brown landscaped parkland.

Once the family home to the Earls of Dudley and host to royalty and high society, today it offers art and craft exhibitions during spring and summer, as well as prestigious conference facilities and guided tours.

The Hall also provides a glamorous setting for civil wedding ceremonies and receptions

and other special occasions.

An indulgent afternoon tea costs £19.95 per person and all settings must be pre-booked.

Additional weekday dates are also available and the hall can take individual, small party or large group bookings up to a maximum of 100 people. Gift vouchers are also available for those wanting to treat someone to a special day out. Vouchers can be bought online at dudley.gov.uk/himleyhall or by calling 01384 817817.

April al fresco wedding fayre is a first for town

APRIL 9 is a date for the diary for future brides and grooms, as Dudley hosts its first free wedding fayre within the town's market.

Around 15 wedding suppliers will take a market stall at this unique event, which will allow would-be married couples to pick up information on all aspects of their big day.

Renovated

Exhibitors will include companies that provide ceremony cars, as well as balloons, photographers, bridal wear, suit hire and flowers.

Staff from Dudley borough's two registration offices, the grade II-listed Priory Hall and Stourbridge's recently renovated Lye and Wollescote Chapels - now called The Thomas Robinson building - will also be on hand to give advice.



Grade II listed Priory Hall is the ideal location for a ceremony

Wedding belles can also take the opportunity to have a look at actual wedding dresses and dress styles that will be on show at the wedding and prom dress fashion show taking place in the Churchill Shopping Centre at 11am and 2pm.

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for



Mayor, councillor Steve Waltho, and Mayoress Jayne Waltho

corporate and customer services, said: "This is the first time that we have hosted an al fresco wedding fayre. I hope that couples find this useful. And, as this will be taking place while the Free Radio DY Eye is still in town, would-be brides and grooms may like to top off their day with a ride on the big wheel."

Dudley Registrars are also organising a wedding show at the recently renovated Lye and Wollescote Chapels, in Stourbridge - now called the Thomas Robinson building, on March 19. The Stourbridge open day will run from 10am to 4pm. For more information call 01384 815373.

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Ferris first for the area set to be big attraction

SPIRITS are soaring skyward in Dudley this month after a 35m ferris wheel rolled into town.

Following on from the success of the 16m wheel, which was highly 'spoke-n' of in December, town centre businesses, alongside Dudley Council, have upped the ante and have more than doubled the size of the wheel in their newest trade-boosting venture.

The Free Radio DY Eye ferris wheel, in association with Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, is transporting visitors 35m into the air, staking its claim as the largest ever big wheel to set up camp in the Black Country.

Offering panoramic views of Dudley and beyond, including the newly regenerated market place, Coronation Gardens, Dudley College sites, and of course, the historic zoo and castle, the giant observation wheel is open seven-days a week, closing only on Easter Sunday.

The Free Radio DY Eye opened for business on Stone Street Square, opposite Dudley Museum and Art Gallery on Saturday March 12. It will remain in place for nearly a month, throughout the Easter period, until Sunday April 10.

The high-rise spectacular has been organised by the Dudley

Business Group (a business-led group that works to attract people to Dudley), Dudley Market Traders Ltd and Dudley Council. The main sponsor for the wheel is Free Radio, with other local businesses ploughing additional sponsorship into the month-long extravaganza.

Midlands Air Ambulance Charity is on site with a decommissioned helicopter pod for children to play in, the service's exhibition trailer and Maac the mascot will be on hand for photos. Donation points to the charity which operates three emergency air ambulance helicopters in the Midlands are situated at the entrance to the Free Radio DY Eye.

Events

As well as the wheel, the partnership behind the project is organising fun events to take place in the town centre throughout the month. These can be viewed at the website www.dudley.gov.uk/DYeye

The ride costs £4 for adults and £3 for children (under 1.4 metres). Family tickets for two adults and two children are £10.

Len Lenihan, managing director of Dudley Market Traders Ltd and a member of the Dudley Business Group, said: "We are so excited to bring such a high quality attraction to Dudley town centre to further boost our town's appeal to shoppers, visitors and investors."

"I am proud to be a member of

Dudley Business Group, who along with Dudley Council, have been instrumental in making this project happen. I would personally like to thank all the local businesses, investors, sponsors and Dudley Council, who are all showing their commitment to the future of our town centre with this exciting scheme."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "I would like to applaud the local business community for supporting and helping to organise something so spectacular for Dudley town centre. I really feel that with the development of Dudley Business Group we have progressed a close working partnership with local businesses who I hope will be taking the lead on many trade-boosting schemes."

"Dudley council is committed to investing in and rejuvenating our town centres and as a community council we will continue to work in partnership to get the best results."

"Since completing the £6.7m regeneration of Dudley town centre, we have hosted events to encourage people to visit and see for themselves how attractive the town centre now looks and we have had wonderful feedback."

"The wheel is an impressive attraction and I hope that it brings even more visitors and shoppers into the town to enjoy the wheel and that it can be something that every-



Lighting up the night sky – the DY Eye illuminated in the evening

one in the borough can be proud of."

The Free Radio DY Eye can take a maximum of 144 passengers in 24 gondolas and will be lit up at night.

It is open from 9am – 5pm seven days a week. During the Easter holidays, from Saturday, March 26

to Sunday April 10, the wheel will remain open until 8pm, while demand continues.

This will give wheel-goers the opportunity to see the new town centre evening coloured lights. The wheel will not open on Easter Sunday, March 27.

Celebrating DY Eye with top activities

An Easter egg treasure hunt and a K'nex workshop are amongst free activities on offer for young people at Dudley library to celebrate the arrival of the town's ferris wheel this month.

The first activity at the library will be a big wheel-themed art group on Saturday March 12 when the Free Radio DY Eye opens for business on Stone Street Square.

Further wheel-related fun and creative activities will be on offer throughout the month, along with the chance to win free tickets to ride the 35-metre fair-ground ride.

Historic

The wheel will offer panoramic views over Dudley and beyond including the newly regenerated Market Place, Coronation Gardens, Dudley College and the historic zoo and castle.

Cllr Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said:

"The arrival of the wheel is causing a lot of excitement around the borough and people are getting into the carnival atmosphere with many other activities taking place in the town."

The wheel will be open from 9am to 5pm seven days a week. During the Easter holidays, from Saturday March 26 to Sunday April 10, the wheel will remain open until 8pm while demand continues.

For more information about activities for children at Dudley Library, telephone 01384 815560.



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Mayor to do marathon warm up

St Mary's CE (VC) Primary School in Kingswinford will have a special guest participant in its pioneering initiative in which its pupils take it in turns to run or walk for 15 minutes every day. The Mayor of Dudley will be taking part in The Daily Mile on March 17 from 1pm.

Councillor Steve Waltho has joined the growing number of Dudley schools that have expressed an interest in The Daily Mile, following the issue of guidance packs by Dudley Council's Healthy Schools Service. The initiative hit the national headlines from a primary school in Scotland last autumn, after hundreds of its children took up the challenge of walking or running for 15 minutes each day, around its premises or local area.

Clr Waltho, said: "This is a fantastic way to get our children and young people physi-

cally active. This perfectly complements our healthy eating agenda and has knock-on effects on social and mental health as well as behaviour and achievement too.

"It is also a privilege to be kicking off my training towards taking part in the London Marathon on April 24 by running with some of our young people who are already benefiting from an excellent physical education at St Mary's and are enjoying The Daily Mile."

The Mile's origin stretches back to 2012, when staff at St Ninian's Primary School in Scotland, were concerned about their pupils' fitness levels. The headteacher decided to get the children to walk and/or run for 15 minutes, outside, everyday. Staff immediately saw the benefits of doing this, not only on pupil fitness but also with their behaviour and ability to stay focussed in class.

Sign up now for the trail

The countdown to this year's Dudley Trail in May has started and walkers are being urged to put their best foot forward and sign up to one of the longest running events in the Dudley borough.

This year marks the 36th anniversary of this annual event and organisers are hoping to attract more people of all ages than ever before. The Dudley trail takes place on Sunday May 1 and walks of 6, 9, 12, 20 and 28 miles are on offer with routes covering the hidden beauty and proud industrial heritage of the borough.

The event offers participants a wide choice of challenges from a 6 mile gentle walk, for those who are just looking for a day out to discover some of the area's prettiest spots, to a 28 mile trek for more seasoned walkers.

This year's event is being organised in association with Action Heart and is supported by Let's Get Active and sponsors K2 Security. Online registration is now live on the website at www.dudley.gov.uk/dudleytrail

Councillor Kurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for visitor economy and cultural services, said, "This event always proves to be very popular in the borough's calendar.

"It provides a great way for people of all abilities to get involved and enjoy the sights of the borough as well as providing an opportunity to make new friends and exercise."

All walks start at Dudley Leisure Centre at designated times between 8am and noon.

Checkpoints are strategically placed along each of the five routes to ensure the well being and whereabouts of walkers and light refreshments are available.

Everyone who completes a trail receives a certificate of achievement.

Pre-booking costs £3 per person for the 28 and 20 mile routes, £2.50 for the 12 and 9 mile routes and £1.50 to walk the more gentle 6 mile route.

An additional fee of 50p will be charged for all entries on the day.

Entry forms are also available to download online at www.dudley.gov.uk/dudleytrail

How to become an Easter eggexplorer

SCHOOLCHILDREN across Dudley borough are already getting egg-cited about Easter, thanks to their involvement in an Easter egg trail.

Twenty-three schools across the borough, plus Dudley College, are each designing a giant stand-up Easter egg template. Their talent and creativity will then be displayed in shops and venues across Dudley town centre, as part of a public art egg hunt.

Egg sleuths can follow the free trail on specially designed egg trail maps, which can be picked up at Dudley Library, Dudley Museum and Art Gallery, and Dudley Council Plus. They can also be downloaded at www.dudley.gov.uk/dyevents as well as at www.discoverdudley.co.uk

One of the schools taking part is Holly Hall Academy, in Dudley. Art teacher Stephen Sharp explained why he was happy for the school to be involved:

He said: "We felt that this would be a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to demonstrate their creativity and have pride in their work being publicly displayed.

"We don't yet know which shop

or cafe our egg will be placed in, and it will be exciting when we find out and see it in situ as part of the trail."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, added:

"This fun public art trail is one of many events that, together with our partners Dudley Business Group and Dudley Market Traders Ltd, we are organising for people to enjoy while the Free Radio DY Eye is in town.

"I would like to thank all of the schools and Dudley College for agreeing to take part and for helping to show everyone the talent and creativity that exists within the borough."

Displayed

The trail will begin on Good Friday March 25 and run until Sunday April 10, which is also the last day of the Free Radio DY Eye. After this date the eggs will be displayed altogether at Dudley Museum.

All schools within the borough were invited to take part in the trail. The first 24 educational establishments to respond were selected.

For more details on the Free Radio DY Eye and all of the events that will be taking place between March 12 - April 10, go to the website www.dudley.gov.uk/dyevents



Year 9 students Charlotte Sims and Sanam Naghman

Easter egg designers

- The Brier School
- Brockmoor Primary School
- Castle High School
- Dudley College
- Fairhaven Primary School
- Foxyards Primary School
- Glynne Primary School
- Ham Dingle Primary School
- High Arcal High School
- Hillcrest School & Community College
- Holly Hall Academy
- Jessons C of E Primary School
- Lopal Primary School
- Lutley Primary School
- Netherbrook Primary School
- Pedmore C of E Primary School
- Peters Hill Primary School
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- Rosewood Primary School
- Thorns Primary School
- Windsor High School and Sixth Form
- Withymoor Primary School
- Woodside Community School and Children's Centre

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Wonderful world of recycling

Did you know that there are loads of items borough residents can regularly recycle with Dudley Council?

Or that by recycling residents are helping the environment by reducing landfill, enabling unwanted items to be converted into new products and that it saves energy and natural resources by reducing the needs for manufacturing or refining from raw materials?

Dudley Council residents receive a free, two-weekly, recycling collection together with a seasonal green waste collection, as part of their Council Tax contribution.

This is great news as it enables them to dispose of unwanted packaging in an environmentally-friendly way and helps Dudley Council increase its recycling rate. So, what can be recycled?

- Blue bag: Recycle card and paper including telephone directories, celebratory cards, ready meal sleeves and brown corrugated cardboard

- Green bag: Plastic bottles, tin cans & aerosols including aerosols cans, biscuit tins, shampoo bottles, plastic milk bottles and household cleaning bottles

- Black box: used for glass bottles and jars

The council is currently working with schools, community groups and local business to see how they can increase recycling.

Contamination of recycling is a big problem. We ask anyone recycling to ensure the right recycling goes into the right container.

Anything that cannot be recycled should be placed in the grey rubbish bin.

The authority is keen to help residents recycle so it offers additional recycling containers upon request. Just ring 0300 555 2345 and provide your details.

For more details about recycling go to the website www.dudley.gov.uk and search recycling.

Free initiative can help you LiveWell

BEING in good health, both mentally and physically, helps us all feel good and lead an active and enjoyable life.

There are lots of things you can do to improve your health and wellbeing and just a few small changes can give big results – from increasing your exercise, being drink aware and keeping an eye on your weight, to eating more fruit and vegetables, getting enough sleep and keeping stress in check.

Through LiveWell, a borough-wide initiative, you could make a new start and become healthier.

There are many things that you can do for yourself, such as getting out and about and exploring all the lovely parks, nature

reserves, canal pathways and open spaces that Dudley borough has to offer. That's what Michael Troon from Stourbridge, did. Five years ago, along with his wife, he took up regular walking. They now participate in walking programmes around the borough and not only does it keep them fit, but it has also helped to reduce Michael's stress levels and improve his sleep.

Reduce

Improving your diet and exercising more can also reduce your risk of serious health problems such as heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes. Now taking part in Shapes – a free exercise and nutrition course Dudley Council runs across the borough – Yvonne Hermon has gone from being overweight, sedentary, eating unhealthily and feeling unhappy to having

improved confidence to change her life. She has since lost three stones in weight.

A Health Trainer helped Halesowen's Bronwen Jones take the first steps to a better life. Talking to a health trainer last year helped Bronwen overcome her anxiety about going out and helped her to learn how to set small goals to increase her confidence and help her get her life back on track.

If you feel you need extra support to make a lifestyle change, then talking to a LiveWell advisor could be just the thing you need to get started. They are there to offer help and advice and point you in the right direction.

To find out what support is available to help you stay healthy and live longer, call on freephone 0800 0850 652 and speak to a member of the LiveWell team today.

Pledge to stop abuse on awareness day

Dudley Council is joining local authorities across the region urging people to make a personal pledge to help tackle child sexual exploitation.

Organised by charity National Working Group, which is dedicated to helping combat CSE, the day aims to encourage everyone to think, spot and speak out against abuse. On the day people are asked to write a personal pledge on their hands and then post a photo of it on social media using the hashtag #HelpingHands. The pledge can be anything, from speaking out, to educating others.

The seven regional councils, the police and partner organisations are working together to raise the profile of CSE in

the region through the See Me, Hear Me campaign. The aim is to increase people's understanding of child sexual exploitation and how to spot the warning signs in a child or young person's behaviour that may indicate something is wrong.

In Dudley an awareness raising roadshow is visiting towns throughout this week, delivered by the council's CSE team and groups from across the borough's voluntary sector. The roadshow will be in Sedgley town centre today tomorrow and Halesowen town centre on Friday both from noon to 4pm to promote messages from the See me, Hear me campaign.

Childline also has counsellors available online at www.childline.org.uk



#HelpingHands is the message

Celebration of Commonwealth

Dudley Council raised a flag at Dudley Council House on Monday to commemorate Commonwealth Day.

Commonwealth Day is held to honour international cooperation and celebrate the diversity of residents in the borough.

The Commonwealth flag was raised on top of Dudley Town Hall at 10am together with over 850 flags across the globe.

The aim of Commonwealth Day is to promote understanding on global issues and foster greater understanding of the Commonwealth's achievements and role.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho, said: "The theme of this year's campaign is 'an inclusive commonwealth' recognising the diverse grouping of countries. Dudley Council mirrors this as it prides itself on being an inclusive borough. "As a community council we embrace all of the varying cultures of the residents living in our borough."

The Commonwealth has a population of more than two billion encompassing fast growing countries, the smallest, least developed and the most populous. It uses the co-operation of these to tackle global challenges and improve lives.

Follow the conversation on #InclusiveCommonwealth



Councillor Steve Waltho, Mayor of Dudley, with the Commonwealth flag



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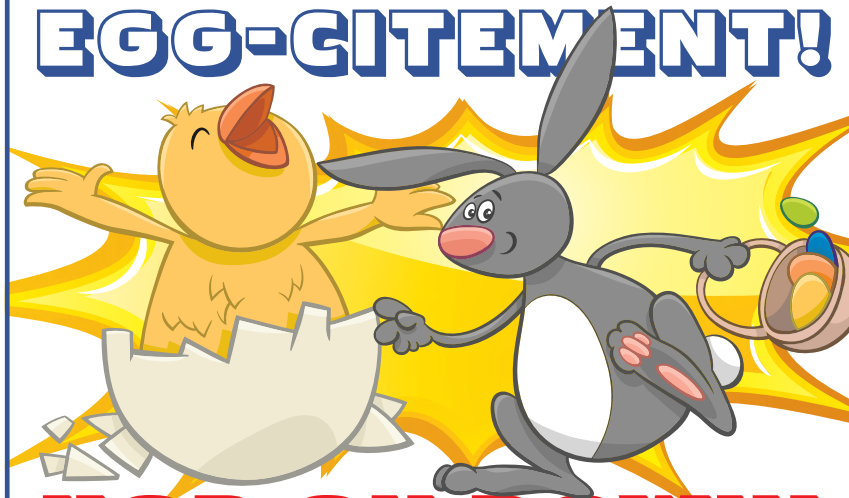
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One-stop shop for information helps families

Want to know what to do at the weekends or in the school holidays with the kids?

Want to find out about local childcare options? Worried about bullying?

Dudley Family Information Service is a mine of information for anything related to children and families.

A free, impartial information service for mums, dads, young people (aged up to 20, or up to 25 for young people with disabilities) and carers of children and young people, it has lots to offer.

There are lots of things you're expected to know as a parent or carer and finding the information you need can be a confusing journey.

Service

The Family Information Service is the expert in all aspects of family life. It's a one stop shop for information on anything and everything relating to children, young people and families.

From information on registered childcare providers, toddler groups, play schemes, activities and things to do at weekends or the school holidays, the service has it all.

In addition, get help with family support such as help with bullying, anxiety or depression, family legal advice, as well as specialist support and advice for parents of children or young people with disabilities, the service really is a treasure trove of information.

So don't sit at home wondering what to do with the children this weekend, or sit worrying about an anxious child, give the service a call for information or advice on 10384 814398.

Alternatively visit the service's website at www.fis.dudley.gov.uk/fsd

AN innovative scheme called Shared Lives is changing the way that adults with care or support needs live their lives, across Dudley borough.

Shared Lives run by Dudley Council is encouraging people to become 'foster' carers for adults with care or support needs, such as learning disabilities.

The carers welcome a matched individual into their home and their family.

People can choose to become long term carers or short term respite carers, working as little as a few hours each week, or they can have someone live with them on a long term basis.

Sometimes a Shared Lives carer will provide regular daytime support from their own home.

There are a number of options to suit people's own circumstances.

Currently there are 24 Shared Lives foster families across Dudley borough, providing either long term care and support or short breaks or respite care and proving a real success. More people are now being encouraged to consider the scheme as a real alternative career option.

Councillor Dave Branwood, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "Shared Lives offers adults with a learning disability or other social care need, the opportunity to live as part of a family in a real home environment.



People can choose to become long or short term carers

"Our Shared Lives carers find it an extremely positive and inspiring career, while the adults themselves benefit hugely from living as part of a warm family unit, experiencing daily routines and family activities, while developing their own independence.

"Shared Lives makes a real difference to vulnerable people's

lives and provides people with a unique, rewarding career choice. I would encourage anyone looking for an opportunity to work from home in a rewarding career, changing people's lives to consider the Shared Lives scheme."

Tim Soukup is a Shared Lives carer from Stourbridge. He said: "Our family has been part of the Shared Lives scheme for some time now.

"We look after two adults with learning disabilities in our home. It is a very rewarding experience that simply needs patience, kindness, understanding and a willingness to share your family.

"Mandy and Will have in effect simply become part of our family."

Each Shared Lives arrangement is closely matched with the right carer, taking lifestyles and levels of support and need into account to ensure a happy household.

Shared Lives carers can be single people or couples, with or without their own families and age is no barrier.

All Shared Lives carers are provided with training and are paid a weekly wage for their role, as well as receiving rent and household contribution from the person they support. They can also have up to four weeks leave per year from their caring role and it is a great opportunity to work from home, fitting in with family.

Anyone interested in learning more about Shared Lives can call 01384 813252 for more information, alternatively email Dudley-SharedLives@dudley.gov.uk

Combined authority would be welcomed

Dudley borough residents and businesses show support for the emerging West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), as reported in a WMCA survey.

There were five key questions relating to the proposed combined authority's role and functions and, specifically, about the scheme document that was submitted to government three months ago.

The survey ran on the WMCA's website for three weeks – January 18 to February 8 – and the results have now been fed back to government.

Overall, the majority of Dudley borough respondents were in favour of what the incoming WMCA is trying to achieve.

Between 58 per cent and 71 per cent of people agreed or strongly agreed that:

- by working together local authorities in the West Midlands would deliver improvements in economic development, regeneration and transport

- better coordination of these areas would mean more effective and convenient local government and services

- the region's Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) would ensure businesses have a strong voice moving forward, and

- neighbouring local authorities should be invited to participate in the WMCA.

An overwhelming 88 per cent of Dudley borough respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the WMCA should not become a 'super council' and that a Combined Authority for the region should not have an adverse effect on the

identities and interests of local communities. The support for the emerging WMCA was particularly strong amongst Dudley borough businesses with between 67 per cent and 100 per cent of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with all five questions in the survey.

The emerging combined authority

Twelve local authorities and three Local Enterprise Partnerships are working together to form a Combined Authority for the West Midlands.

The government is considering whether it is appropriate and in the region's best interests to form a Combined Authority, which if they do approve will see powers move from Whitehall to the West Midlands and to our locally elected members who are best placed to serve the region.

The new combined authority will not replace

any existing councils and there will not be one new single authority as councillors in each authority will still be accountable to the people who elected them.

Dudley Council will continue to deliver services and keep our identity but on the big decisions we will have the powers and resources to work together with our neighbouring authorities.

For example the emerging Combined Authority has struck an £8billion investment plan with government for the West Midlands, which will help bolster more public transport, jobs, investment and housing in Dudley than ever before.

For further information visit the website at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk/ and to find out what it means and does not mean for Dudley visit www.dudley.gov.uk

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Get active at kids run

A new Saturday morning kids running session launched at Priory Park earlier this month.

National children's charity Kids Run Free is launching the running event at the weekend and will continue to run the session on the first Saturday of every month.

The fun sessions are accessible to children of all abilities, with individual races for each age category and distances ranging from 50m up to 5km.

There are free gifts to collect with every eight events attended.

The Kids Run Free mission is to create fun, sustainable running opportunities for 0-16 year olds, igniting their passion for sport and physical activity and allowing them to become healthier, happier, more confident children.

Fun

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said:

"These new running sessions from Kids Run Free are a great way to get out and exercise as a family in one of our lovely green spaces.

"The races are suitable for all ages and abilities and their main aim is for children to have fun taking part. These sessions complement the wide range of activities we have running at the park including led walks, gardening courses and our forthcoming Easter trails."

It's completely free to take part and children of all fitness levels are welcome. Parents just need to register their children at www.kidsrunfree.co.uk before attending for the first time.

Races start at 9am but people need to arrive at 8.45am for warm up and registration.

For more information about all KRF events visit www.kidsrunfree.co.uk



Councillor Hilary Bills with councillor Steve Waltho, Mayor of Dudley and Mayoress Jayne Waltho promote the clean up

Clean for the Queen

LOCAL communities are being invited to roll up their sleeves and get involved with community clean ups in readiness for the Queen's 90th birthday.

The national Clean for the Queen Campaign is a Keep Britain Tidy initiative which is encouraging people to play their part in keeping their local areas clean and tidy.

The Queen turns 90 in June and to make this green and pleasant land once again green and pleasant, communities are invited to take part in a clean-up weekend on 4, 5 and 6 March.

Dudley Council, which already supports community cleans ups through its Love Your

Community campaign, is offering the same support for the Clean the Queen weekend. Individuals, schools, community groups and businesses who get involved will be supplied with Clean for the Queen livery including bags, gloves, litter pickers and high vis vests (these are on a first come, first served basis). Dudley Council will then arrange to collect and dispose of the bagged waste.

Community

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "As a community council we already support community litter picks through our Love Your Community campaign and we are keen to support the national Clean for the Queen weekend.

"We all have a responsibility to look after

where we live and can play a part through community litter picks or by reporting incidents of littering and flytipping to Dudley Council Plus or by the quick and convenient Dudley Council mobile app."

There are currently litter picks planned by staff and students at Kingswinford School and community litter picks across the borough. People can search for their nearest litter pick by visiting the Clean for the Queen website.

Anyone interested in participating in Clean for the Queen or setting up a Love Your Community litter pick should contact Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345.

For more information on the national campaign or to register an event visit www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk

Fly the flag with pride

A new Black Country flag is set to fly proudly above the town in the lead up to this year's regional celebrations thanks to a kind donation from an iconic local business.

The flag flying from Dudley Town Hall has become worn after 12 months of marking the capital of the Black Country. But Black Country T-Shirts, which is based in Dudley town centre, stepped forward to donate a new one for the lead up to the Black Country Festival in July.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of the council, said: "The Black Country Festival is the biggest event in the borough's calendar and is an opportunity for us all to celebrate everything that is fantastic about this region.

"We're really grateful to Black Country T-Shirts for the flag, which will fly proudly from the roof of Dudley Town Hall in the lead up to what I am sure will be another bostin' month of celebrations."

Black Country T-Shirts which has been producing eye-catching and hilarious T-shirts promoting the region for the past eight years, moved to Castle Street, Dudley, in December last year.

The company also produces a range of Black Country flags for sale and people are being urged to order a new one in the run up to this year's festival which runs throughout July. It will include a range of events throughout the borough organised in conjunction with the Black Country Festival organising committee.

Stephen Pitts, owner of Black Country T-Shirts and festival committee member, said:

"We are proud of our Black Country roots, which you can see from the T-shirts we sell, and we were only too happy to step in to provide the flag for the town hall.

"We are well stocked with flags if people want to get a new one for this year's celebrations. We don't make any profit from the sale of the flags, all the money we make goes straight back into the festival for the enjoyment of everyone."

Thousands of people join in the celebrations for the Black Country Festival with events organised by community groups across the borough. The council won a national award through the PR Moment Awards last year for the way it promoted the events.

To contact the shop for a new flag call 01384 639 392 or visit www.blackcountrytshirts.com

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ANY MEAL WITH THIS VOUCHER

Painting of hero is returned

A rare painting depicting a local war hero which was stolen from a Dudley borough library has been returned safe and sound wrapped in a carrier bag.

The famous artwork, depicting Brockmoor WWI soldier Sergeant William Jordan rescuing a wounded comrade in May 1915, was left in a carrier bag outside Cradley Library recently.

It was painted by award-winning artist Francis Gibbons and for many years it was on display at Brierley Hill's old free library in Moor Street. The painting was kept in a drawer for members of the public to study it and learn about its local significance.

But it went missing and in November 2014 local campaigners Brierley Hill Civic Society joined the council in calling for the painting to be returned.

Out of the blue, on Thursday last week, members of staff arrived at Cradley Library to find the painting on the front steps wrapped in a carrier bag.

Dudley Council is now making arrangements for its safekeeping. Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member responsible for libraries, said: "This is very unusual to find such an important piece of local artwork abandoned on the front steps of a library. I'm pleased that after all this time someone has been brave enough to return the painting to us."

"We have always tried to run an open and transparent library service based on the trust of people who come and use these important facilities. Since the painting disappeared we have reviewed how we display these sorts of items to the public and we will now be making arrangements for this painting to be put somewhere safe."

The picture was hung in the old Moor Street library around 40 years ago which was then run by Brierley Hill District Council.

Sgt Jordan lived in Campbell Street, Brockmoor, and served with the South Staffordshire Regiment.

The former Brockmoor School student was killed in action at the age of 40 - in France on September 25, 1915, at the Battle of Loos. In July 1917, Wordsley artist Francis Gibbons donated his painting honouring Sgt Jordan's battlefield heroics to Brierley Hill Council.

Foster service needs new carers in borough

People interested in fostering can find out more by contacting Dudley Council's fostering service.

Last month the service launched a new campaign 'I foster, you can too' to encourage people to realise the vast range of people who can foster and the type of children who need homes.

Dudley fostering offers a rewarding career, 24 hour support, training and guidance 365 days a year and a range of fostering options.

Circumstances

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services, said: "We really

need new foster carers in Dudley and we know although lots of people think about fostering, they maybe aren't sure if their circumstances fit what we're looking for."

The team is keen to hear from anyone interested in fostering but in particular from those who would like to care for teenagers, children with disabilities or those who have

the ability to take more than one child so brothers and sisters can stay together.

They would also like to hear from people interested in long term fostering.

People can find out more by emailing fosteringrecruitment@dudley.gov.uk visiting www.dudley.gov.uk/fostering or calling the service on 01384 815833.

Picture from the past

A new piece of public artwork which brings to light a forgotten Dudley Street has been unveiled this week.

The mosaic imagines a view of the buildings of an old street, Middle Row, which once occupied part of Dudley's Market Place.

Using more than 6,000 hand cut and shaped tiles, the trompe l'oeil design draws viewers into the piece as they look over the shoulder of the archaeologist into the foundations of the dig. The new piece is located in the central channel between the market stalls, under the covered glass arcade.

Designed by borough artist Steve Field, it depicts an imaginary view into the archaeological excavations that took place in 2014 when the foundations for the spectacular new Market Mall were about to be built. It features not only the street foundations but also the archaeologist, Kate Griffiths, complete with her trowel and distinctive jewellery seated inside an illusionistic view of an old well that was discovered during the dig.

Alongside the Middle Row buildings are depicted some of Kate's intriguing Victorian archaeological finds including ceramic bottles of Warren's Liquid Blacking, oyster shells, a plentiful and cheap fast food of the time and disposable clay pipes.

After making the design, Steve drew the perspective illusion out full size in his Himley Hall studio, then worked with two other artists, Helen Sweeting and Richard Ellis, to create the mosaic. Archaeologist Kate visited the work in progress and to pose, and as a result various personal details were added such as her distinctive jewellery.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and regeneration, said: "It's fitting that the mosaic remembers the busy and vibrant Middle Row, just as the ongoing regeneration of the market place brings more business to the town centre today."

"The bright and engaging design of this artwork draws people into the image and the mosaic will no doubt become a favourite piece of public art for local people."

The floor mosaic forms the centrepiece of the bright new glazed Market Mall and was installed on Sunday 28 February.

The artwork complements other work celebrating Dudley's colourful history, such as the Time Trail of 33 bronze paving plaques also designed by the borough artist and the newly refurbished Green Man Entry.

The £6.7 million regeneration of Dudley town centre includes a newly designed market, new paving, the restoration of many historic features and buildings as well as the feature lighting. This work has been funded by the European Regional Development Fund, Dudley Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund.



Dudley Market managing director Len Lenihan is pictured with artist Steve Field and the colourful new mosaic

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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show — see brochure/web page for details.

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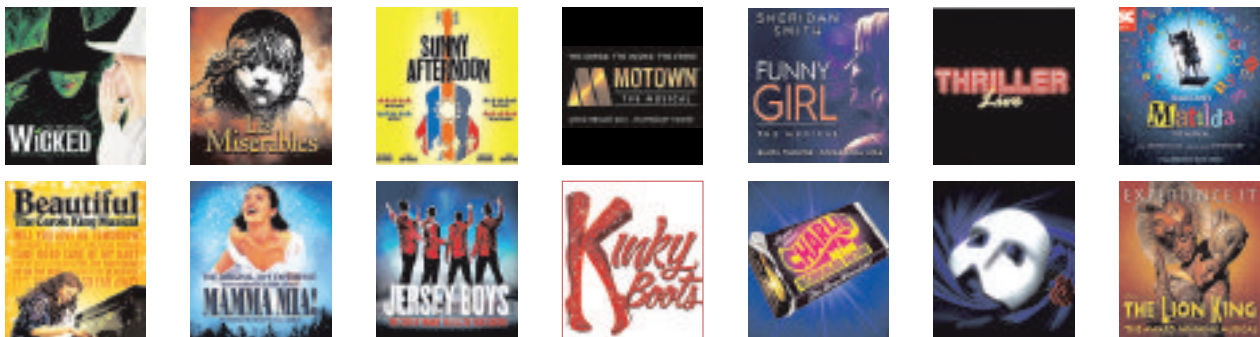
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Little Mix – Page 27

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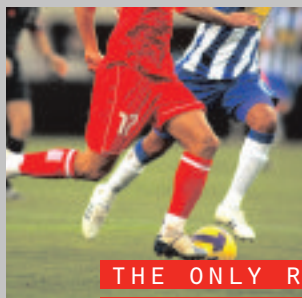
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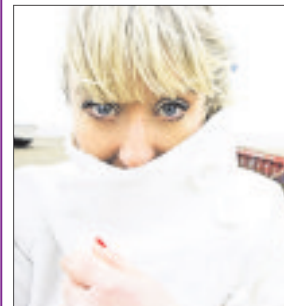
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7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, 7.30pm,
Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm,
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Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Brendan Cole: A Night To Remember

Sun at 7.30pm, £19.50 -
£39.50
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

COMEDY

Mark Thomas: Trespass

Sat at 7.30pm, £14 - £15
Lichfield Garrick,
WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Joe Lycett: That's The Way, A-Ha A-Ha, Joe Lycett

Sun at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
The Glee Club,
Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

TALKS

Gordon Buchanan – Lost Adventures

Thu at 7.30pm,
Lichfield Garrick,
WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

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- 5.30pm,
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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Little Mix girls are thinking big now

THEIR first show proved so popular that Little Mix had to add an extra date at Birmingham's Genting Arena.

The British all-girl group – Perrie Edwards, Jesy Nelson, Jade Thirlwall and Leigh-Anne Pinnock – will play on Friday, March 18, and return on Sunday, April 3.

They've enjoyed a heady rise after forming exclusively for the eighth series of The X Factor in 2011.

The band signed with Simon Cowell's Syco Music and released a winner's single, a cover of Damien Rice's Cannonball. Since then, they've barely been out of the headlines.

Their debut album, DNA, sold almost 400,000 copies, while the follow-up, Salute, did almost as well. The band's most recent album, Get Weird, has been their biggest seller to date, notching up almost half a million sales. It features the hits Black Magic and Love Me Like You.

"We had a lot of fun when we wrote this album," says Edwards. "We've been writing it for a year. [The album is] very fun, very colourful, very pop."

"There's ballads, there's brilliant pop songs, there's a bit of R&B in there," adds Thirlwall. "There's something for everyone."

Little Mix worked on the album with Jess Glynne. "When we wrote the album we were getting so stressed about what it would sound like," Nelson explains. "Then we just thought, let's just write what we want to do and have fun with this album. Jess was so much fun to work with."

Thirlwall adds: "Jess did 'I Want' with us as well. She came in at a piv-



Latest Little Mix album, Get Weird, which has sold more than half a million copies

otal moment, and it's an emotional song for us, and it's really honest and it gets you right there."

Little Mix also became friends with One Direction, who also found fame on The X Factor. "How amazing to know that they're a phenomenon and to be like, 'Boys – we've done well, ha-

ven't we? Let's have a break,'" says Pinnock.

Not that Little Mix are planning a break. "Little Mix don't ever want to stop," Edwards adds. "We always want more. We want to go to Madison Square Garden and achieve everything."

Bob's your uncle, Robin

HIS uncle's one of the most famous actors in the business. But Robin Morrissey isn't trying to follow in Stafford-born Neil Morrissey's footsteps. He doesn't hanker for the starring role in a 2016 equivalent of Men Behaving Badly, he's no designs on becoming Bob The Builder either.

Instead Morrissey has been slowly building up an impressive string of acting credits, featuring in Cloud Atlas, Love Bite and Fracture among others.

Morrissey, however, is in no doubt that his family has been instrumental as he's begun to make his way. "My uncle has been an enormous help," he says. "He's been amazing. He's a brilliant man and has been helpful in terms of helping me to understand what an actor's life is. I can't say enough about how helpful he's been. My immediate family is also very supportive."

Morrissey has been hard at work for a new Birmingham Repertory Theatre production of Nikolai Gogol's The Government Inspector, slated at the Centenary Square theatre from Saturday, March 19, until March 26.

The play is set in a small provincial Russian town. Morrissey takes up the story: "It's a very corrupt town and the officials are pocketing a lot of money. They probably have to because there is nothing else there. Everything that gets sent from St Petersburg to build churches goes into their pockets. The Government inspector is leaving to inspect the small town and the officials there are in danger of being sent to Siberia."

Morrissey immersed himself in the works of Gogol before signing up, saying: "Gogol's a fascinating character. There are a lot of parallels with today's society. When you have a script as good as this it makes the job a lot easier."



'My uncle has been an enormous help'

Mega-stars are on way to the arena

THE mega-stars are on their way to the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham.

On Sunday Mariah Carey brings her Sweet Sweet Fantasy tour, her first in Europe for 13 years, to the city centre arena. Guitar hero Joe Bonamassa plays on Saturday and Brit-winner Ellie Goulding, enjoying considerable success with third album Delirium, plays on Monday with support from John Newman.

The 1975 brings songs of Chocolate and Girls on Tuesday. Their second album is entitled I Like It When You Sleep For You Are So Beautiful Yet So Unaware Of It – longest name ever for a US chart-topping album.

Band celebrate 30 Wonder Stuff years

THE Wonder Stuff are on the road celebrating 30 years since they got together in the Black Country and play Birmingham O2 Academy on Saturday.

Fronted by Miles Hunt, they release debut The Eight Legged Groove Machine in 1988 (first of nine studio albums) and had hits with Circlesquare, The Size of a Cow, Welcome to the Cheap Seats and, with Vic Reeves, a chart-topping cover of Dizzy. Highlights included their Big Day Out homecoming concert at Walsall's Bescot Stadium in 1991 and headlining the Phoenix Festival in 1994.

Support at Birmingham includes The Wedding Present.

Brum rising stars in five-band show

BIRMINGHAM'S next big thing Hankks launch their new EP at the O2 Institute in Digbeth tomorrow night (Friday) with support from The Assist, Faith, Pollen and Giant Elf Pist.

Sussex punk trio Traams recall Tubeway Army and early Cure on their recently released second album Modern Dancing and will be in concert tonight (Thursday) at the Hare and Hounds, Kings Heath. At the same venue, Bad Seeds and Grinderman drummer Jim Scavunos joins Joe Gideon for songs from his Versa Vice album on Sunday, Berlin punks Diat play Tuesday and Stereolab's Laetitia Sadier Wednesday.

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CHOICE



Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson's Journey from Motown to Off the Wall (BBC2, 9pm)
Spike Lee's documentary charting the path of the King of Pop's career through to the release of Off the Wall, the 1979 project that broke records, and propelled Michael to international stardom. Lee's investigation begins in the early days of Jackson's time in the limelight, from his work with his brothers and his solo outings, and details how the Jackson boys' success led them to leave Motown. Includes contributions by Berry Gordy, Questlove, and Philly International Records founders Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, who produced the Jackson brothers' first two non-Motown albums, resulting in their first platinum single.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 12.50 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 Athletics. 2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Wales v Italy (Kick-off 2.30pm). 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 Dynamo: Magician Impossible. 5.45 Celebrity Mastermind. (R) 6.15 BBC News. 6.25 Regional Programme. 6.30 **Pointless Celebrities.** New series. Simon Day, Paul Chowdhry, Emily Attack, Ian Lavender, Kerry Godliman, Graeme Garden, Steve Pemberton and Bob Mortimer take part in a special edition of the quiz. 7.20 **Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** France v England (Kick-off 8.00pm). John Inverdale presents from the Stade de France, where this year's tournament reaches its conclusion. There is a chance that this fixture will decide the destination of the title, with England still in with an excellent chance following victories in their opening three matches against Scotland, Italy and Ireland. The meeting between the nations on the final day last year was a thriller from start to finish, with England knowing they needed to win by 26 points or more to clinch the title, and after a match that produced no less than 12 tries, they fell agonisingly short despite their record-breaking 55-35 victory. With Les Bleus still seemingly incapable of stringing together two consecutive positive displays, Eddie Jones will be confident of ending his first tournament in charge of England on a high, even if ultimately the title doesn't come his side's way. 10.00 **The National Lottery Live.** Gaby Roslin hosts as the all-important winning Lotto and Thunderball numbers are revealed. 10.10 **BBC News;** Weather. 10.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Everton v Arsenal at Goodison Park and Crystal Palace v Leicester City at Selhurst Park; National Lottery Update. 11.50 **Film: The Uninvited.** (2009) Thriller, starring Emily Browning. 1.15 **Film: Wake Wood.** (2010) 2.40 Weather for the Week Ahead. 2.45 BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Film: The Big Sky. (1952) 8.35 **Film:** Forbidden Planet. (1956) 11.10 **Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) 11.10 **Natural World: Spectacled Bears – Shadows of the Forest.** (R) 12.00 **Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul.** (R) 1.00 **The Best Dishes Ever.** (R) 1.30 **Escape to the Country.** (R) 2.20 **Film:** The Red Shoes. (1948) Powell and Pressburger's drama, starring Moira Shearer. 4.30 **Flog It!** (R) 5.30 **Big Dreams Small Spaces.** (R) 6.30 **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don begins to sow annual climbers and gets started on tidying and mulching his borders, while Joe Swift reveals how and when to prune trees. (R) 7.00 **Celebrity Antiques Road Trip.** TV presenters Johnny Ball and John Craven embark on a quest to unearth collectibles in Hampshire and Dorset, with help from experts Charles Hanson and Philip Serrell. (R) 8.00 **Perry and Croft: Made in Britain.** A celebration of comedy writing duo David Croft and Jimmy Perry, examining how their work can be viewed as a unique chronicle of the UK in the 20th century. (R) 8.30 **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring lets Frazer take charge of the platoon, gambling that a taste of authority will give him a more responsible attitude. (R) 9.00 **Michael Jackson's Journey from Motown to Off the Wall.** Spike Lee's documentary charting the path of the King of Pop's career through to the release of Off the Wall, the 1979 project that broke records, and propelled Michael to international stardom. Lee's investigation begins in the early days of Jackson's time in the limelight, from his work with his brothers and his solo outings, and details how the Jackson boys' success led them to leave Motown. Includes contributions by Berry Gordy, Questlove, and Philly International Records founders Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, who produced the Jackson brothers' first two non-Motown albums, resulting in their first platinum single. 10.30 **Pop Goes BBC Two.** (R) 12.00 **Live Athletics.** 3.00 **Messiah at the Foundling Hospital.** (R) 4.00 **A Cable Abroad: Cambodia.** (R) 5.00 **The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway.** (R)

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockor Street. 6.15 **Bottom Knockor Street.** (R) 6.25 **Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) 6.35 **Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) 6.45 **Signed Stories: Share a Story.** (R) 6.50 **Sooty.** (R) 7.05 **Super 4.** (R) 7.15 **Looped.** (R) 7.30 **Scrambled! Scrambled!** 7.35 **Scrambled! Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) 7.50 **Scrambled! Horrid Henry.** (R) 8.10 **Murder, She Wrote.** (R) 10.20 **Murder, She Wrote.** (R) 11.20 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) 12.25 **ITV News;** Weather. 12.29 **Regional Programme.** 12.30 **Big Box Little Box.** (R) 1.00 **Judge Rinder.** (R) 2.00 **The Chase.** (R) 3.00 **Tipping Point.** (R) 4.00 **Regional Programme: Weather.** 4.15 **ITV News;** Weather. 4.30 **Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Ireland v Scotland** (Kick-off 5.00pm). 7.10 **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** X-Men actor Hugh Jackman steps into the role of guest announcer this week, and is joined by his Eddie the Eagle co-star Taron Egerton. Ant and Dec's escapades continue in Who Shot Simon Cowell?, and as the pair face a life on the run. Dec discovers the real killer's identity. Back in the real world, Peter Crouch and Abbey Clancy get into the party mood in I'm a Celebrity. Get Out of Me Earl, and the End of the Show Show transforms into a West End showdown, as the cast of two high-profile musicals compete in a sing-off. Plus, as ever, one lucky member of the audience is given a chance to win the items advertised in one of last week's commercial breaks. 8.40 **You're Back in the Room.** Phillip Schofield and renowned illusionist Keith Barry challenge five more strangers to complete seemingly simple challenges, this time enlisting the aid of Chris Kamara. 9.40 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined in the studio by Hugh Jackman, Taron Egerton, Shazia Mirza and Luke Evans. Plus, Scottish alternative rockers Primal Scream perform. Last in the series. 10.45 **ITV News;** Weather. 11.00 **Film: Yes Man.** (2008) Comedy based on the book by Danny Wallace, starring Jim Carrey. 1.00 **Jackpot247.** 3.00 **Murder, She Wrote.** (R) 3.50 **ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.40 **The King of Queens.** (R) 7.05 **The King of Queens.** (R) 7.30 **The Grid.** 8.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) 8.30 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) 9.00 **The Morning Line.** 10.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) 10.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) 11.00 **The Superhumans Show.** 11.30 **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD.** 12.30 **Formula 1: Australian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.** 2.15 **Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Uttoxeter and Kempton Park. 4.30 **Come Dine with Me.** 5.00 **Come Dine with Me.** 5.30 **Come Dine with Me.** 6.00 **Come Dine with Me.** Jade, a former soldier now seeking her fortune as a balloon sculpting entrepreneur, hosts the fourth and final dinner party in Swansea. She plans to execute her evening's entertainments with military precision, but with mother-of-two Anna and patriotic Welshman Leon still at loggerheads, things might not go as smoothly as she had planned. As the evening draws to a close, the diners deliver the final round of results, revealing which host has secured the £1,000 prize. 6.30 **Channel 4 News.** 6.45 **The World's Weirdest Weather.** Strange sounds produced by unusual weather, including bell-like ringing resonating from rocks, sci-fi style humming noises coming from lakes, and the ear-splitting roar of deadly twisters. 7.40 **Film: The Day After Tomorrow.** (2004) A climatologist warns global warming will soon result in destructive freak weather, or even another ice age. He thinks the world still has time to prepare for the worst, but the crisis happens almost immediately – and as storms, earthquakes and hurricanes strike in terrifying fashion, he races across America to rescue his son from a frozen New York. Disaster thriller, with Jake Gyllenhaal and Dennis Quaid. 10.00 **Film: Kick-Ass 2.** (2013) Premiere. Amateur vigilante Dave joins a team of crimefighters, but faces the world's first supervillain. Action comedy sequel, with Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Chloe Grace Moretz. 12.05 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** (R) 1.00 **Hollyoaks.** (R) 3.10 **Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free.** (R) 4.05 **Location, Location, Location.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 8.55 **The Fairly OddParents.** 9.30 **The Saturday Show Live.** 11.40 **Funnies! Falls, Falls & Flops.** (R) 12.10 **The Gadget Show.** (R) 1.10 **Police Interceptors.** (R) 2.05 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) 3.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) 4.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) 5.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) 6.00 **5 News Weekend.** 6.05 **NCIS: Los Angeles.** Callen and Sam hunt for two gunmen who shot Deeks during a robbery at a convenience store, and discover the gunmen were game members for hire. 7.00 **NCIS: New Orleans.** Lachlan Colston, a lieutenant in the Royal Australian Navy, is murdered on US soil, prompting Special Investigator Naomi Parsons to travel to New Orleans from Australia to investigate. Evidence mounts suggesting that Colston's death was a hired hit, but when the team moves in to apprehend the assassin, Parsons' rash actions jeopardise the arrest. Suitably humbled, the Aussie agent agrees to tow the line as Pride and his colleagues learn that Colston may have been killed to derail a nuclear programme to be established on the Cocos Islands. 8.00 **NCIS.** While on a joint Coast Guard and NCIS training exercise at sea, Gibbs and Agent Borin spot a dead man overboard, who is found to be a missing member of the crew of a nearby vessel. 8.55 **5 News Weekend.** 9.00 **The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches from the Championship, which included Derby County v Nottingham Forest. 10.00 **Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present a round-up of the latest matches in League One and League Two, which included Wigan Athletic v Bradford City, and Stevenage v Northampton Town. 10.30 **The NCIS Movie: Judgement Day.** The funeral of a special agent in Los Angeles leads Shepard on a covert mission to finish some classified business she began a decade previously in Europe. (R) 12.10 **SuperCasino.** 3.10 **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 **Human Planet** 8.00 **Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures** 9.00 **Follow the Money** 11.00 **Arena: Ken Dodd – Happiness** 12.00 **Bee Gees at the BBC and Beyond** 1.00 **The Joy of the Bee Gees** 2.00 **Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies** 3.00 **Top of the Pops: 1981** 3.35 **Close**
ITV2
11.00 **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway** 12.30 **The Almost Impossible Gameshow** 1.25 **Scorpion** 2.25 **You've Been Framed!** 3.00 **100 Animals** 3.30 **Film: The Gummy Bears** (2011) 5.25 **Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous** (2005) 7.40 **Film: The Mummy** (1999) 10.00 **Celebrity Juice Live** 11.00 **Family Guy** 12.35 **American Dad!** 1.30 **@elevenish** 2.00 **Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands** 2.05 **ITV3 Nightscreen** 2.30 **Teleshopping**
ITV3
11.35 **Sherlock Holmes: The Eligible Bachelor** 1.55 **A Touch of Frost** 3.55 **Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide** 6.00 **Midsomer Murders** 10.00 **A Touch of Frost** 12.10 **Blue Murder** 1.40 **Doctor in the House** 2.05 **ITV3 Nightscreen** 2.30 **Teleshopping**
ITV4
11.40 **The Car Chasers** 12.40 **Pawn Stars** 1.35 **Storage Wars** 2.30 **Storage Wars: Texas** 3.30 **Film: Gunsmoke** (1953) 5.10 **Film: Appaloosa** (2008) 7.15 **Film: Police Academy 6: City Under Siege** (1989) 9.00 **An Audience with Billy Connolly** 10.05 **Film: Magnum Force** (1973) 12.35 **Film: Born to Raise Hell** (2010) 2.30 **Hogan's Heroes** 3.00 **Teleshopping**
E4
11.00 **Baby Daddy** 12.00 **New Girl** 1.00 **How I Met Your Mother** 2.00 **Film: Big (1988)** 4.05 **The Goldbergs** 5.30 **Brooklyn Nine-Nine** 6.30 **The Big Bang Theory** 9.00 **Film: Max Payne** (2008) 11.00 **Gogglebox** 1.10 **Tattoo Fixers** 2.15 **How I Met Your Mother** 3.05 **Gogglebox** 4.00 **Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23** 4.20 **Revenge**
Film4
11.00 **Unidentified Flying Oddball** (1979) 11.00 **Dragonball Evolution** (2009) 2.40 **Step Up 4: Miami Heat** (2012) 4.40 **The Phantom** (1996) 6.40 **Home Alone 2: Lost in New York** (1992) 9.00 **Paul** (2011) Sci-fi comedy, with Simon Pegg and Nick Frost. 11.05 **Rush** (2013) Fact-based motor racing drama, with Chris Hemsworth and Daniel Bruhl. 1.25 **The Haunting in Connecticut** (2009) 3.30 **Close**

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CHOICE



Heston Blumenthal

Heston's Dinner in Space (Channel 4, 6pm)
Heston Blumenthal and his team, working closely with the UK Space Agency, ESA and NASA, attempt to revolutionise the previously limited world of space food. British astronaut Tim Peake set Heston a task before embarking on his mission at the International Space Station, which was to create seven dishes that would remind him of home, helping to combat the emotional impact of his journey. Heston takes Tim on a nostalgic trip back to his childhood with every bite, providing much-needed comfort food and creating the quintessential cup of tea – the first to be sipped in Space.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. **Weather**. **1.15** The Sport Relief Games Show 2016. **3.15** A Question of Sport. (R) **3.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** Liffeline. **4.40** Songs of Praise. **5.15** Sport Relief 2016: The Best Bits. **6.15** BBC News. **6.35** Regional Programme. **6.45** Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison explore Ashdown Forest in East Sussex, which was the inspiration for the Hundred Acre Wood in AA Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh series of stories. John Craven visits West Rise Junior School in Eastbourne, which boasts a Bronze-Age settlement and water buffalo roaming its marshlands, and Tom Heap hears about the impact that wind farms could have on birdlife in Scotland. Including Weather For The Week Ahead. **7.45** The Voice UK. The battle stages are now over, and Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson each now have a complete team of would-be stars under their tutelage. The next challenge the contestants face is the knock-out, in which they must carefully select and perform a "killer song" that will elevate them above their team rivals, as the coaches whittle their eight chosen singers down to three. Presented by Emma Willis and Marvin Humes. **9.00** The Night Manager. Roper discovers that crucial documents have been leaked and becomes suspicious that he has a traitor in his team. Pine is asked to demonstrate weapons to one of the arms dealer's clients, and is confronted with the full horror of Roper's actions. Dromgoole tries to persuade Burr to abandon her investigation, leaving her afraid for her family's safety. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester City v Manchester United at the Etihad Stadium. **11.55** Live Athletics. **1.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.15** An Island Parish. (R) **6.45** An Island Parish. (R) **7.15** This Farming Life. (R) **8.15** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** Countryfile. (R) **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **11.45** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Hunt Hunters. (R) **3.00** Athletics. **5.00** Flog It! (R) **5.30** The Secret History of My Family. (R) **6.30** Perry and Croft: Made in Britain. The celebration of comedy writing duo David Croft and Jimmy Perry continues with an examination of how their sitcoms chronicled the UK's class system in the 20th century. (R) **7.00** Gareth Malone's Great Choir Reunion. To mark the 10th anniversary of The Choir, Gareth Malone tracks down members from all the choirs who have participated in the series to bring them together for a reunion. (R) **8.00** World's Weirdest Events. Chris Packham discovers the cause of mysterious holes in the Russian tundra, finds an underwater lake and meets the creator of a cannon especially for salmon. Last in the series. **9.00** Tribes, Predators & Me. New series. Gordon Buchanan learns how tribal cultures hunt and live alongside dangerous animals, beginning by joining the Waorani tribe in Ecuador as they search for anacondas. **10.00** Thirteen. Ivy tries to reconnect with her sister, but a mysterious letter threatens their reconciliation. Merchant returns to Mark White's house, and makes a shocking discovery. **11.00** The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story. The prosecution team is no match for Johnnie Cochran's tactics and mind games, or his stage-managed showcase of OJ's life, while Chris Darden faces antagonism from friend and foe. (R) **11.50** Line of Duty. Arnott uncovers new details about Denton's personal life which appear to support her claim that she is being framed, while Hastings risks his career to pursue a high-level target. (R) **12.50** Line of Duty. (R) **1.50** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.45** Holly City. (R) **3.45** A Cable Abroad: Canada. (R) **4.45** The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockers Street. **6.15** Bottom Knockers Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looptail. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled! Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled! Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled! Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.30** Scrambled! Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled! The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News. **Weather**. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** River Monsters. (R) **2.40** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **3.40** Off Their Rockers. (R) **4.10** Film: Octopussy. (1983) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore. **6.35** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.45** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands. The future of the Shieldlands rests in Rheda's hands, but whether she summons the courage to fight against her brother and his fearsome army remains to be seen. Last in the series. **8.00** The Story of Cats. Species that have adapted to behave very differently to typical felines, from jaguars that swim underwater to tigers able to survive freezing temperatures. Last in the series. **9.00** Doctor Thorne. Frank and Mary plan their wedding, but Lady Arabella is still determined to stop them going ahead with the marriage, and tries to persuade Mary that she should it would be in Frank's best interests to marry someone else. Sir Roger's son Louis struggles to cope with his new position in society, and proves just as self-destructive as his father, drinking to excess and hurling abuse at his dinner guests. Final episode of the drama, adapted by Julian Fellowes and starring Tom Hollander, Stefanie Martini and Rebecca Front. Last in the series. **10.05** ITV News; Weather. **10.20** Six Nations Highlights. Action from the fifth and final round of the championship. **11.20** Premiership Rugby Union. **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.35** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.50** Frasier. (R) **8.15** Frasier. (R) **8.40** Frasier. (R) **9.10** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** Sunday Brunch. **1.30** Formula 1: Australian Grand Prix Highlights. **4.00** Film: Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters. (2013) Premiere. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Logan Lerman. **6.00** Heston's Dinner in Space. Heston Blumenthal and his team, working closely with the UK Space Agency, ESA and NASA, attempt to revolutionise the previously limited world of space food. British astronaut Tim Peake set Heston a task before embarking on his mission at the International Space Station, which was to create seven dishes that would remind him of home, helping to combat the emotional impact of his journey. Heston takes Tim on a nostalgic trip back to his childhood with every bite, providing much-needed comfort food and creating the quintessential cup of tea – the first to be sipped in Space. **7.30** Channel 4 News. **8.00** Great Canal Journeys. New series. Timothy West and Prunella Scales embark on more watery adventures. This time, they head into uncharted waters to attempt one of the longest canal journeys in the world – 350 miles coast to coast across Sweden. The first leg of their voyage begins in Gothenburg, where they link up with the historic Gota Canal, taking them into the heart of the Scandinavian country and toward the Baltic Sea. **9.00** Indian Summers. Aafin's wounded comrade Nareesh is convinced someone has betrayed him, but as Aafin struggles to contain him, he discovers the truth is darker and more dangerous than he knew. **10.00** Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R) **11.00** Film: The Taking of Pelham 123. (2009) Thriller remake, with Denzel Washington. **1.00** Embarrassing Bodies Down Under. (R) **1.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.10** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Ticky Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Foombarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.10** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.20** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** The Fairly OddParents. **10.30** The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.30** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) **12.00** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **12.15** Film: Madeline. (1998) **2.00** Film: Justin and the Knights of Valour. (2013) Premiere. Animated adventure with the voice of Freddie Highmore. **4.00** Film: A Cinderella Story. (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Hilary Duff and Chad Michael Murray. **6.00** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. Dave Spike and Zoe Lyons introduce videos from the internet featuring animals doing bizarre and humorous things, with the first edition focusing on cats. (R) **7.00** Now That's Funny! Featuring clips of animals behaving like humans, a baby who has an odd reaction to bacon, and some fancy dance moves. **7.55** 5 News Weekend. **8.00** Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas. Featuring an illusionist battling his own reflection, some shocking predictions, a card trick involving a mini plunger and a mindbending stunt with a Rubik's Cube. **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Film: Tower Block. (2012) Premiere. The residents of a soon-to-be-demolished tower block are trapped while a mysterious sniper picks them off one by one. Thriller, starring Sheridan Smith and Jack O'Connell. Includes 5 News at 10pm. **10.45** Film: Harry Brown. (2009) An elderly retired marine takes the law into his own hands when his friend is murdered by hoodlums on a London estate. Crime thriller, starring Michael Caine and Emily Mortimer. **12.35** Tattoo Disasters UK. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.15** Divine Designs. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 John Williams at the BBC **8.00** Pappano's Classical Voices **9.00** Darcey Bussell Dances Hollywood **10.30** Film: I'm So Excited! (2013) **11.55** Len Goodman's Dance Band Days **12.55** Bee Gees at the BBC and Beyond **1.55** The Joy of the Bee Gees **2.55** The Story of British Pathe **3.55** Close
ITV2
12.20 Take Me Out **1.30** Film: The Incredible Hulk **2.40** Christie Morse **3.45** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **7.15** Film: Liar Liar (1997) **8.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** Bordertown **11.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.45** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.10** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.35 Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide **2.40** Inspector Morse **4.55** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Carry On Forever **10.00** Wycliffe **11.05** Film: Private Benjamin (1980) **1.25** A Touch of Frost **3.05** May the Best House Win **4.50** On the Buses **5.15** Judge Judy **6.35** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
11.00 Pawn Stars **12.55** Film: Appaloosa (2008) **3.00** Live Table Tennis. Coverage of the concluding day of the National Championships. **6.00** Starline Wars **7.00** The Classic Car Show **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: US Marshals (1998) **11.40** Film: Child's Play 3 (1991) **1.30** As Men 2.15 Hogan's Heroes **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.00 Couples Come Dine with Me **2.00** Film: Hairspray (2007) **4.20** Rude (ish) Tube Shorts **4.30** The Goldbergs **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **12.00** Virtually Famous **12.50** The Aliens **1.55** The 100 **2.40** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. **3.30** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 Five Children and It (2004) **1.00** The Golden Compass (2007) **3.10** Catch That Kid (2004) **4.55** 10 Things I Hate About You (1999) **6.50** G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (2009) **9.00** Non-Stop (2014) An air marshal on a transatlantic flight searches for a terrorist threatening to kill the passengers one by one. Action thriller, with Liam Neeson and Julianne Moore. **11.05** Hanna (2011) Action thriller, starring Saoirse Ronan. **1.15** Nine to Five (1980) **3.30** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

The Boy Next Door, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A romantic novelist is attracted to her next door neighbour. When he is murdered, she finds her infatuation makes her the prime suspect. Crime thriller, with Dina Meyer and Woody Jeffreys. (2008)

TUESDAY

The Wrong Woman, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A suburban policeman's wife is falsely accused of murdering a prostitute in a car park and finds herself in a legal nightmare when evidence pointing to her guilt mounts up. Drama, starring Danica McKeller and Jonathan Bennett. (2013)

WEDNESDAY

Wedding Daze, BBC1, 11.45pm

A man is planning to marry his girlfriend, but she drops dead while he is in the middle of proposing. One year later, he is still searching for a way to overcome his depression, and hits on the idea of spontaneously asking a waitress to be his wife. Amazingly, she agrees, but the news dismays his friends and family. Romantic comedy, starring Jason Biggs, Isla Fisher and Joe Pantoliano. (2006)



Night Train to Lisbon, Friday, BBC2, 10.30pm

THURSDAY

Garage Sale Mystery II: All That Glitters, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Jennifer Shannon has a keen eye for a bargain, picking them up at garage sales and selling them for a tidy profit in her own shop. But she also has a nose for a mystery, which comes in handy when the owner of a storage unit is murdered. Crime drama based on Suzi Weinert's novel, starring Lori Loughlin. (2014)

FRIDAY

Night Train to Lisbon, BBC2, 10.30pm

An academic impulsively pursues a woman he met by chance, leading to him abandoning his job to follow her to Lisbon. On the journey, he reads a book belonging to her, and is inspired by the philosopher who wrote it. He sets out to track down everyone who knew the author to discover the story of his life. Drama based on Pascal Mercier's novel, starring Jeremy Irons and Melanie Laurent. (2013)

Family must learn new ways to communicate

Take a Bafta-winning writer, an A-list cast and a hit Israeli drama, shake them all up and what do you get?

The BBC's new six-part series **The A Word** (BBC1, 9pm), it seems.

It's been inspired by Yellow Peppers, a show that went down a storm in its native country and was described by the critic of the Israel Today newspaper as being "nothing like anything you've ever seen on television" when it first aired in 2011.

It has now been adapted for a British audience by Peter Bowker, the acclaimed scribe behind such shows as *Marvellous*, *Eric* and *Ernie*, *Occupation* and *Blackpool*.

He also penned the recent take on John Lanchester's novel *Capital*, which didn't receive the same kind of critical success – but he promises to be back on form with this offering.

The story focuses on the Hughes family, a seemingly ordinary clan living within a tight-knit Lake District community.

At the heart of the story is Joe, a five-year-old boy who loves listening to

his father's punk records over and over again, but his inability to connect to the world around worries his parents.

Eventually, Joe is diagnosed with autism, and his loved ones realise that if they want him to develop his ability to communicate and interact with the outside world, they must alter their own approach to life.

Bowker is certainly the ideal person to tell the story, having spent 14 years teaching children with learning difficulties and autism before becoming a professional writer.

"We have the opportunity here to make something funny, tough, realistic and inventive about contemporary family life and autism," he claims. "In a society where imperfection increasingly comes with blame attached, it seems timely to look at how autism is regarded both within a family and the wider community – and to give some insight into how that experience might be for the child on the autism spectrum."

"It's a drama full of ideas – about parenthood, about disability, about

communication, about community – and will emphatically engage an audience whatever their experience of the subject."

Many people will think they are familiar with autism if they have seen the film *Rain Man*, but there are lots of forms of the condition.

Here, Joe doesn't have any special skills; in fact, for much of the time he appears to be completely normal, there are a just a few key behaviours that mark him out.

"The *A Word* tackles parts of life that aren't always easy and Peter has drawn on the absolute highs, lows and challenges so many families face when a child is different to other children, in a beautiful way," says Polly Hill, the BBC's controller of drama. "With Peter's award-winning track record and history of drama tackling tough subjects, *The A Word* is set to be a rollercoaster of a series which is ultimately an uplifting, honest and human drama for BBC One."

Christopher Eccleston, Lee Ingleby, Morven Christie and six-year-old newcomer Max Vento head the cast.



Christopher Eccleston stars in The A Word, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Davina McCall: Life at the Extreme
ITV, 9pm

Davina travels to the Costa Rican jungle, which is one of the wettest and most humid places on earth, but is a habitat in which animals thrive and is home to around 500,000 species. She learns about the ways in which creatures including sloths, poison dart frogs, tarantulas, tapirs, fer-de-lance vipers, common basilisks and spider monkeys have adapted to the conditions, before spending a night high up in the treetops of the rainforest – where a lightning striking directly overhead forces an abrupt change of plans. Last in the series.

The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story
BBC2, 9pm

Public opinion turns against prosecutor Marcia Clark as she is pilloried for her appearance, while more missteps by the investigating detectives during their searches for evidence are revealed – though defence lawyer Johnnie Cochrane has a damaging secret of his own. Meanwhile, the Increasing TV coverage of the trial is bringing pressure to bear on all those concerned. Fact-based crime drama about the trial of OJ Simpson. Cuba Gooding Jr and Sarah Paulson star.

TUESDAY

One Born Every Minute
Channel 4, 9pm

It's been a surprise hit for Channel 4, and one that doesn't appear to be running out of steam just yet. But why has *One Born Every Minute* been such a success? While other docu-soaps fall by the wayside, this one continues to win new fans – perhaps because the stories it follows are so incredibly moving. Expect more of the same this time around as the 'action' moves to Liverpool Women's Hospital – and seeing as it has the largest and busiest maternity unit in Europe, there should be plenty of enthralling tales to tell.

WEDNESDAY
Employable Me
BBC2, 9pm

When Channel 4 hired the first continuity announcer with Tourette's syndrome a few months ago, it proved that nothing should stand in the way of employable folks with afflictions. In this new series, cameras follow some of the UK's job seekers who prove that having Tourette's or autism should not make them unemployable. Episode one focuses on 52-year-old

Paul who has a severe case of Tourette's, but is determined to succeed at work again, and with the assistance of scientists, uncovers amazing skills. We also meet Brett, a 34-year-old with autism, whose true hidden genius is revealed by a world-renowned expert. A moving, occasionally funny and often uplifting addition to the schedules.

THURSDAY
Line of Duty
BBC2, 9pm

Jed Mercurio's highly acclaimed, multi-award-winning crime thriller is back for a new run. Once again, it will follow the work of the AC-12 team as they investigated another possible case of wrongdoing by their fellow police officers. And while the core cast remains the same, guests actors are brought in to play the newcomers. This time it's Daniel Mays who will be taking a starring role, stepping into the shoes previously worn by Lennie James and Keeley Hawes. He plays Sgt



Davina McCall: Life at the Extreme, Monday, ITV, 9pm

Danny Waldron, leader of an armed response unit who is being investigated after a suspect was shot dead during an incident.

FRIDAY
Britain's Whales
ITV, 8pm

Part one of two. More than 25 kinds of whales and dolphins and over 30 different sharks either visit or live in British waters. Off the coast of Ireland, Ben Fogle comes face to face with a pod of humpbacks and witnesses dolphins working with the whales to hunt down their prey. Sharks are much harder to find, so using the biggest shark bait available he and co-presenter Ellie Harrison prepare to head out to sea.

Boomers
BBC1, 9pm

There's something inherently funny about campsites, as the Carry On crew proved in the late 1960s. In 2016, it seems there's little danger of the genre being forgotten either, thanks to the first episode of this returning series. Philip Jackson (so good in Caitlin Moran sitcom *Raised in Wolves*), Alison Steadman, Russ Abbot, Stephanie Beacham, Paula Wilcox and James Smith make up the trio of newly retired couples who take a break from the Norfolk resort of Thurnemouth and go camping.

Easter

Days out

Where would you like to take the family this Easter?

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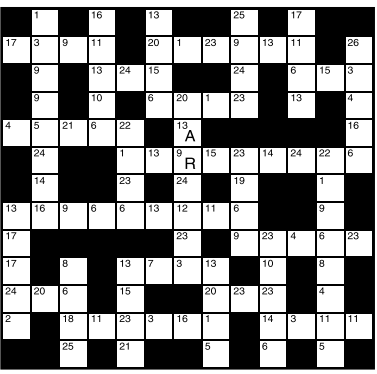
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BRAIN GYM No.369

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



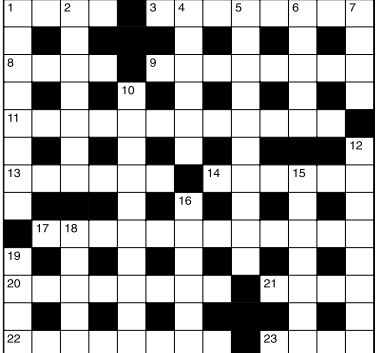
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
Q M V N A T R D G H Z L F
O B P W S X E K Y C I J U

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

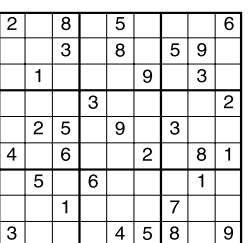
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

- Cryptic Clues:**
- Across**
- See 6 Down
 - Still on a different mount (8)
 - Put some indication on foreign coin (4)
 - He must have been willing (8)
 - What retiring ladies assume (5-7)
 - Ceremonial trial arranged about the middle of January (6)
 - A section of the foot soldiers should be! (6)
 - Protracted, like a tooth removed years ago (4,5,3)
 - Arranging notes about the position of those making a film (2,3,3)
 - See 23 Across
 - One that's not self-supporting in dilapidated pit areas (8)
 - 23 & 21 Ac. Pastureland, having potential, can be hired out (8)
- Down**
- Any miser would upset Roman Catholic retreat (8)
 - It's properly erected, honest! (7)
 - Those people embracing alternative abstract idea (6)
 - Stop press: The French Trial Report (6,4)
 - 6 & 1 Ac. Awkwardly placed, as many a noodle may be (2,3,4)
 - The usual thing found in Rangoon or Mandalay (4)
 - They murder fifty aliens outside (10)
 - Pure description of one recovered from measles? (8)
 - Put oneself out to cause affliction (7)
 - Seduce (6)
 - Stripes for the serviceman (6)
 - The boulder decapitated a river creature (5)
 - Confine the cask manufacturer without any hesitation (4)



- Quick Clues:**
- Across**
- Frenzy (4)
 - Terrifying (8)
 - So (4)
 - Divert (8)
 - Immense (12)
 - Seduce (6)
 - Connect (6)
 - Co-operate (4,4,4)
 - Muddle (8)
 - Solid (4)
 - Petition (8)
 - Sell (4)
- Down**
- Kept (8)
 - Epicure (7)
 - Hateful (6)
 - Withdrawal (10)
 - Fragile (5)
 - Quote (4)
 - Reckonable (10)
 - Protected (8)
 - Disturb (7)
 - Overrun (6)
 - Separate (5)
 - Island (4)

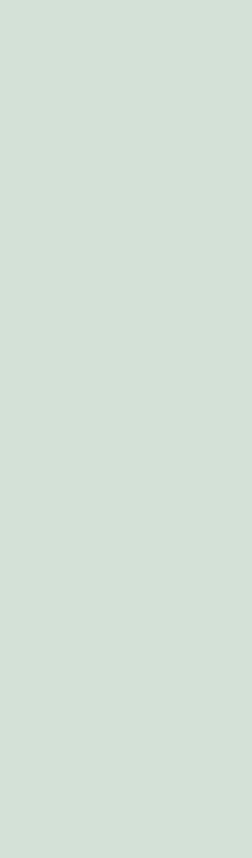
Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Close the gap; 9 Uniform; 10 Delta; 11 Elder; 12 Terrace; 13 Scales; 15 Chilli; 18 Ruminous; 20 Appal; 22 Exact; 23 Rictous; 24 Nobody's fool. Down: 2 Laird; 3 Scourge; 4 Tomato; 5 Elder; 6 All hail; 7 Queer Street; 8 Materialist; 14 Agitato; 16 Head off; 17 Osprey; 19 Outdo; 21 Photo. QUICK - Across: 1 Tempestuous; 9 Painter; 10 Prior; 11 Obese; 12 Termite; 13 Treaty; 15 Effete; 18 Neglect; 20 Dodge; 22 Trait; 23 Islamic; 24 Belligerent. Down: 2 Elite; 3 Patient; 4 Sprite; 5 Upper; 6 Utilise; 7 Opportunity; 8 Inverreance; 14 Engrave; 16 Fiddler; 17 String; 19 Extol; 21 Demon.

Thinking space



Quiz

- Which company designed the Merlin engine of the Spitfire and Hurricane?
- What is the name of the lowest region on the Earth's surface?
- Which nut is obtained from the areca palm?
- In the Old Testament, who was Jacob's older twin brother?
- Of which sea creature is the argonaut a type?
- Which number Ivan was 'the Terrible'?
- Which sea touches the shores of Denmark, Norway and Holland?
- In Greek mythology, what hung on an oak tree at Colchis?
- Which actor wrote Snakes and Ladders in 1978?
- Of which creature is Psittacus erithacus a variety?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 April 23; 2 Inner Hebrides; 3 David Hockney; 4 Chickenpox; 5 St Francis of Assisi; 6 Skin; 7 Violin; 8 Christopher Timothy; 9 Nevada; 10 A degree.

Niner: CAMBRIDGE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

2346735 gives a ballet company,
71448 gives an orchestra,
1591 gives an opera.

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At your convenience

The new-look Blue Ginger in Huntington, Cannock, has added spice since reopening. **MARK SHIPP** gives it a try

ON walking into the Blue Ginger, Natalie Imbruglia was playing. Not in person, obviously. I wouldn't want to give you the wrong impression.

And I wouldn't mislead you as to the quality of this restaurant, either. In fact, since dining at the new-look premises, I've often thought: Wishing I Was There.

Needless to say I was torn over what to eat. There was one big mistake, though. Well, a minor quibble, but we'll come to that later.

The restaurant, in Stafford Road, Huntington, reopened before the end of last year following a revamp that saw most of it swallowed up by a new convenience store.

Owner Abdul Ali, who has run the restaurant for four-and-a-half years, welcomes the smaller premises and its new look.

Homely

By his own admission, it was too big before, so by reducing its capacity makes it easier for him and his 10-strong staff to manage as well as allowing for a cosier and more homely dining experience.

I can only agree, and the pleasant decor and ambient lighting adds to welcoming environment. On entering, there is a plush reception area/bar with the whole restaurant, catering for more than 80 diners, sprawled out in front. It's well laid out too, so the owners can feel a sense of pride and achievement at a job well done.

The quality of fare has not been diminished, either.

Customers are liking what they see, with many old regulars coming back – and introducing newcomers to its delights. One look at



Outside Blue Ginger, Stafford Road, Huntington

online reviews show that Blue Ginger is making a favourable impression.

The experienced chefs have come up with a novel menu at Blue Ginger, with speciality dishes, fish and seafood offerings. Some items blend other cuisines, while vegetarians are also catered for.

One highly recommended dish is the tellapia delight, filet of fish, medium spiced and pan fried with garlic, ginger, lemon juice and a hint of fresh mint.

Signature dishes include khodu ghost and desi lasagne, while the fusion appetisers include quorn chatt, with house specialities ca-

tering for non-meat eaters, like a mixed meat relish and paneer tikka masala.

It began well with a mussels starter for myself, particularly as the sweet and sour sauce that accompanied it among the best I've tasted. My other half chose the vegetable samosas – but was not expecting as much as she was given.

The mains I had trouble choosing from, but in the end I opted for exotic salmon. This didn't come dressed in some tropical outfit, but it did specify it came with spring rolls. I didn't get them.

But I didn't make a fuss as overall I wasn't

disappointed by the meal itself. I had with it a bullet naan, which I had pontificated over beforehand. It sounded hot, should I go for it?

I was informed it didn't quite have the bang I was probably expecting, and Abdul was right. It was the perfect sidekick, and the whole dish met my satisfaction, as my empty plate demonstrated. Desserts would have been one step too far, though.

The tried and trusted makhani chicken was enjoyed by the other half, too and it compared favourably with dishes tried elsewhere.

Blue Ginger is open seven days a week from 5.30pm. Call 01543 500300 or 502376.



The restaurant's interiors is well laid out



The reception area at Blue Ginger

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Old Quarter residence has been refurbished



SITUATED in the popular Old Quarter of Stourbridge, a short walk from the town centre, charming and historical 67 Enville Street is a deceptively spacious home that has been refurbished.

It is for sale through The Property Shop at £230,000. It has a lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, side hall, cellar, bathroom, master bedroom, two top floor bedrooms with en suites. It also has a rear garden and two allocated parking spaces. Call The Property Shop on (01384) 444645 or visit www.thepropertyshop.co.uk website.



www.bakersproperty.co.uk

GORNAL THORNLEIGH



Modern detached in a popular residential area a short distance from the village centre and in immaculate order throughout. Detached, Block paved drive, Garage, Reception hall, Lounge Formal dining area Fully fitted kitchen, Cloakroom Three bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas C/htg, double glazed, Private landscaped gardens.
OFFERS BASED ON: £209,950

GORNAL BROOKDALE



Immaculate semi detached property refurbished to a high specification and within walking distance of the village centre. Luxury accommodation comprises drive and parking to reception hall entrance-lounge-formal dining area-fitted kitchen-integrated appliances-three bedrooms-fitted furniture to master-bathroom-gas c/htg/double glazed-gardens-cedarwood garden room.
OFFERS BASED ON: £129,950

THE STRAITS HIGH ARCAL ROAD



Extended individual design bungalow, standing on a sizeable elevated plot in a sought after residential area. Reception hall, lounge, formal dining/study, breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, shower room/cloaks, garage, gas C/htg, double glazed, landscaped gardens, freehold, vacant possession.
OFFERS BASED ON: £244,950

GORNAL STICKLEY LANE



- Semi detached
- Hall
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Utility- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom- Gas C/HTG
- Double glazed

OFFERS BASED ON: £124,950

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Dudley Wallows Wood

- Three bed semi
- Freshly decorated throughout
- Newly fitted carpets
- GCH & D/Glazing
- Newly fitted kitchen with cooker
- Newly fitted bathroom

£675pcm



EPC: D



Wolverhampton Coalway Road

- Semi detached Victorian style property
- Gas central heating & majority double glazing
- Four bedrooms
- Breakfast style kitchen

£725pcm



Wednesbury Lloyd Street

- Three bed family home
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Useful utility area
- Fitted kitchen with cooker
- Family bathroom with bath and

£675pcm



Tipton Doughty Close

- Two bedroom apartment
- Newly fitted carpets
- Double glazed
- Fitted kitchen with integrated cooker
- Family bathroom

£525pcm



Tipton Lissimore Drive

- First floor apartment
- Centrally heated and double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with shower

£495pcm



Wednesbury Goldby Drive

- Two bed first floor apartment
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Parking
- Tipton office

£475pcm



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New



KINGSWINFORD, Sanderling Rise

Further enhanced by the VERY LARGE REAR GARDEN and 'open' front outlook, this SUPERB DETACHED FAMILY HOME is well placed at the head of a desirable 'cul-de-sac' offering a BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED layout with CONSERVATORY and FOUR BEDROOMS with EN-SUITE. EPC D.

£244,950



PENSNETT, Cygnet Lane

This SUBSTANTIAL, EXTENDED, DETACHED PROPERTY comprises: Hall, Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms, Garage, Fantastic Garden & FURTHER SAUNA ROOM which could alternatively be used as a 4th BEDROOM. EPC D

£219,950



UPPER GORNAL, Pale Street

SPACIOUS, NEW BUILD, gas centrally heated, double glazed dormer style detached with flexible room arrangements. Conveniently situated, the accommodation comprises; hall, stylish BATHROOM, double bedroom, magnificent 'hub of the house' 19 ft living/dining room/kitchen. To first floor is a large 20'7" principal bedroom with shower room en suite. Parking, gardens, distant views. EPC: SAP: B. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £187,500



KINGSWINFORD, Coniston Drive

Very well placed upon much sought after 'Valleyfields', this BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW offers an expensively re-appointed layout which is 'READY TO MOVE INTO', plus a good sized driveway, GARAGE and a beautifully maintained garden. EPC D

£174,950



WOODSETTON, Flavell Street

A well presented, extended traditional semi-detached property situated in sought after area of Woodsetton. This good size family home benefits from entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen. THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, double glazing and central heating, enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £145,000



KINGSWINFORD, Granville Drive

A THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW within a desirable address, close to amenities/ bus routes, offering a DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS layout which requires some updating. Set back beyond the BROAD DRIVEWAY, TANDEM 32ft GARAGE and a sunny rear garden. EPC E

£144,950



WOODSETTON, Park Close

An attractive, Freehold, gas centrally heated & mostly uPVC double glazed semi detached at head of short convenient cul-de-sac briefly comprising; entrance porch, reception hall, lounge with bay, dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, tiled bathroom. Parking, and neat/secluded rear garden with substantial timber workroom. EPC: D.SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £144,950



BRIERLEY HILL, The Breeze

This STUNNING & EXPENSIVELY FURNISHED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME is seen to comprise: Hall, Guests W.C., Stylish Lounge with Dining Area, CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN, TWO LARGE BEDROOMS (Master with EnSuite), Modern Bathroom, Driveway & Lovely Garden. EPC B

£137,950



BRIERLEY HILL, The Breeze

This BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, MODERN, END TOWNHOUSE comprises: Hall, Guests W.C., Attractive Lounge, Contemporary Kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS (Master with En-Suite), Splendid Family Bathroom, Driveway & Pretty Garden. EPC: D

£130,000

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Also at **Stourbridge** and **Halesowen**



LOWER GORNAL, Winrush Close

SPACIOUS, stylish, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed four (potentially five) bedroom detached convenient for the village with lengthy garden & distant views. Accommodation set over three floors provides; hall, cloak, family room/alternative bedroom, lounge, kitchen, dining room, conservatory. Four bedrooms (principal with en suite), bathroom, garden. EPC :C SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Warren Drive, Northway

Stylish, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed link-detached with tremendous distant views comprising; hallway, cloakroom & further store, 26ft through living/dining room with doors out to garden, kitchen with an extensive range of units & various integrated appliances FOUR BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with en suite), bathroom. Carport, large garage, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Fiveways Court, Off Lake Street

50% SHARED OWNERSHIP Exceptionally stylish, gas centrally heated, double glazed intermediate house in GATED DEVELOPMENT within walking distance of many amenities. Ground floor is a reception hall, cloakroom, kitchen, lounge (with doors out to garden), store. THREE BEDROOMS (tremendous second floor bedroom with dormers and skylights), bathroom, garden, parking. Vendors 50% share for sale at £65,000 or full sale price £130,000. EPC:C SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£229,000**

New price

WAS **£210,000**, NOW **£199,950**

New price



GORNAL WOOD, Bank Road

WALKING DISTANCE OF VILLAGE! A gas centrally heated, & UPVC double glazed semi detached that has been completely redecorated and refreshed in recent months comprising; hall, cloak, kitchen, living/dining room. THREE BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with a shower room en suite), bathroom. Parking, garden. EPC Rating: C SEDGLEY



UPPER GORNAL, Eve Lane

A fantastically presented traditional semi-detached property situated in the popular Upper Gornal area. It consists of entrance hall, well-appointed lounge, fitted kitchen-diner. THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear-garden with CABIN, centrally heated & double glazed, off-road parking. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY



WOODSETTON, Duncroft Walk

Favourably situated in the Woodsetton area of Dudley and enjoying a leafy open aspect to the front, this semi-detached property offers great potential. This good-sized family home benefits from living room, kitchen-diner, bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, garage, part double glazing, gas central heating and has NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating E SEDGLEY



PENSNETT, Hamble Close

THIS BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED & RATHER SUBSTANTIAL, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises; Hall, Lovely through Lounge with Dining Area, Modern Breakfast Kitchen, TWO FANTASTIC BEDROOMS, WELL APPOINTED BATHROOM, GARAGE, Pleasant Garden. EPC:



SEDGLEY, The Walk

LARGE EXTENSION AND TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL! A gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and part UPVC double glazed semi detached for improvement in popular/convenient district. With a number of character features the accommodation includes entrance hall, through lounge (with patio doors), kitchen, lobby, separate toilet, store, further living/occasional bedroom with large shower/wet room ensuite. Three bedrooms, bathroom, drive, secluded rear garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of **£130,000**

Offers in the Region of **£124,950**

Offers in the Region of **£124,950**

£123,500

New price WAS **£125,000**, NOW **£122,500**



SEDGLEY, Dormston House, Dudley Street

A GROUND FLOOR gas centrally heated and double glazed two bedroom flat in gated development within walking distance of Sedgley's Bullring and all associated amenities. The recently redecorated accommodation comprises through living room with well equipped kitchen section, inner hallway, two bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, allocated parking, communal grounds. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY



DUDLEY, Chestnut Avenue

This good-sized end of terrace family home benefits from entrance hallway, living room, well appointed kitchen-diner, family bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, double glazing, gas central heating, enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. Viewing highly recommended. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY



LANESFIELD, Mount Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A good-sized semi-detached property that offers plenty of potential. Situated in a popular area of Lanesfield, Wolverhampton, this family home benefits from; entrance hall, living room, kitchen-diner, bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, enclosed rear garden, garden to front. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY



QUARRY BANK, Charles Road

THIS TRADITIONAL & SPACIOUS, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises; Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Side Verandah, Three First Floor Bedrooms, Bathroom, Driveway & Large Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D



COSELEY, Providence Row

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Situated in the popular Coseley area this semi-detached property benefits from; entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden and drive to front. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£120,000**

Offers in the Region of **£114,950**

Offers in the region of **£99,950**

£89,950

Offers in the region of **£89,950**



DUDLEY, Heath Green, Old Park Farm

This modern intermediate townhouse property is situated in the popular Greens estate. An ideal FIRST TIME BUYER opportunity, it benefits from entrance hallway, modern fitted kitchen, living room, TWO BEDROOMS, fitted bathroom, centrally heated and double glazed, enclosed rear garden, drive to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating C SEDGLEY



DUDLEY, Caroline Street

THIS PERIOD STYLE, THREE BEDROOM HOME, would ideally suit FIRST TIME BUYERS or BUY TO LET INVESTORS and is available for sale with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Comprising; Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Lovely Garden. EPC D



UPPER GORNAL, The Arcade, Off Kent Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Situated in the Upper Gornal area of Dudley, in walking distance of local amenities including doctors, dentist, and convenience stores. This duplex maisonette offers plenty of development potential with accommodation over two stories and benefits from entrance hallway, kitchen, good-sized living room with balcony THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom with separate W/C and central heating. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Daffodil Close, High Arcal

Significantly improved, gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) & UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED semi detached overlooking fields to the rear. Rare opportunity to purchase under Housing Association shared ownership initiative whereby 50% SHARE is available, comprising; hallway, store, L shape living room, kitchen. Two double bedrooms, bathroom, garden, block paved front drive. 50% SHARE is available at offers around £70,000. EPC:C SEDGLEY



WOLVERHAMPTON, Sutton Court, Ettingshall Park

NO UPWARD CHAIN A primarily UPVC double glazed GROUND FLOOR flat offering potential upon well regarded development convenient for so many amenities. Accommodation includes entrance hallway, lounge, double bedroom, central kitchen, bathroom, separate toilet, communal grounds. SEDGLEY. EPC Rating E

New price WAS **£94,950**, NOW **£89,950**

£79,950

Offers in the region of **£74,950**

O/A **£70,000** for 50% Share

PRICE: **£44,950**

www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk



Modern family detached home in quiet cul-de-sac

NUMBER 1, Windmill View, Areley Common, Stourport-on-Severn, is a modern detached family home situated on a fabulous plot within a small select development of just five executive-style family homes. It is for sale through Halls at £330,000.

It comprises four bedrooms and a family bathroom and en-suite off the master bedroom.

There are three ground floor reception

rooms and a fitted kitchen diner with utility room and cloakroom.

The property offers privacy being fully enclosed with off-road parking and detached double garage. The gardens are beautifully presented, low maintenance and fully enclosed. The brick paved driveway enables parking for up to four vehicles.

For further information contact Halls on 01562 820880 or visit www.hallsgb.com



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AUCTION - 22ND MARCH 2016



33 FORTON CLOSE, COMPTON, WOLVERHAMPTON

Uniquely designed large modern Detached, Hall, 21ft Lounge, First Floor Dining Room / Lounge (18ft)., balcony, fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, spacious Bathroom, Gas CH., Utility Room / Workshop, Car Port, pleasant Gardens. EPC = E51

Guide: £185,000 / £195,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 18th & 19th MARCH @ 12.00 noon



20 GLYME DRIVE, TETTENHALL.

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED FOR FOUR 1-BED FLATS

Detached Bungalow in prominent corner position, Double Glazing, CH., Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Car Port, Rear Garden. EPC = D63

Guide: £138,000 / £143,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 18th & 19th MARCH @ 11.45 a.m.



80 FOWLER STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON

Mid Terraced, Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Rear Hall, Shower Room & Separate Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Rear Verandah, long Garden. EPC = E53

Guide: £69,000 / £74,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 18th & 19th MARCH @ 9.45 a.m.



95 THE LINDENS, NEWBRIDGE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Well presented Ground Floor Flat. Communal entrance, Hall, Lounge, well proportioned Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, smart white Bathroom. Garage. EPC = D58

Guide: £55,000 / £60,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 18th & 19th MARCH @ 10.45 a.m..



1 CHURCHFIELD AVENUE, TIPTON

Spacious modern Ground Floor Double Living Room, CH., Double Glazing, Hall, 15ft Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Separate W.C., allocated Parking. EPC = TBA

Guide: £28,000 / £33,000



15 LOWBRIDGE WALK, BILSTON

Access via Windsor Street.

Impressive Ground Floor Flat, immaculately presented, Hall, magnificent 21ft Living Area with fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, en-suite & large Bathroom, allocated Parking space within gated grounds. EPC = C71

Guide: £93,000 / £98,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 18th & 19th MARCH @ 11.00 a.m.



5 RICHMOND MEWS, MERRIDALE ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Close to City Centre - well located Ground Floor Flat within select small block. Hall,

Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, Gas CH., Garage, attractive Rear Garden. EPC = D67.

Guide: £64,000 / £69,000.

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 18th & 19th MARCH @ 12.45 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

Wasperton Close, Birmingham



- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE
- LARGE CORNER PLOT
- OFF ROAD PARKING/TANDEM GARAGE
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £209,950

Minton Road, Harborne



- THREE BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- DRIVEWAY AND GARAGE
- FRONT & REAR GARDENS
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £199,950

Cambridge Crescent, Edgbaston



- MODERN TWO BEDROOM HOUSE
- UPSTAIRS FAMILY BATHROOM
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
- EPC RATING: C

Offers in Excess of £194,950

Shelsley Avenue, Oldbury



- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- ENSUITE TO MASTER BEDROOM
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £174,950

Dayhouse Bank, Romsley



- DELIGHTFUL TWO BEDROOM COTTAGE
- PRIVATE MATURE REAR GARDENS
- LOVELY PERIOD FEATURES
- EPC RATING: F

Offers in Excess of £169,950

Tame Street, West Bromwich



- MODERN THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- LARGER THAN AVERAGE PLOT OF LAND
- MASTER BEDROOM WITH EN-SUITE
- EPC RATING: C

Offers in Excess of £159,950

Tudor Court,, Sutton Coldfield



- SECOND FLOOR RETIREMENT APARTMENT
- EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH QUALITY THROUGHOUT
- REAL OAK FLOORING AND OAK GLASS PANELLED DOORS
- EPC RATING: C

Offers in the Region Of £144,950

Cheshire Road, Smethwick



- FOUR BEDROOM MID TERRACE
- OPEN PLAN LARGE THROUGH LOUNGE
- SPACIOUS PROPERTY, OFFERING POTENTIAL
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £126,950

Titford Road, Oldbury



- THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- MODERN KITCHEN
- EPC RATING: E

£124,950

Hudson Road, Tipton



- SPACIOUS THREE BEDROOM TERRACE
- DECORATED TO A TASTEFUL STANDARD
- NEWLY INSTALLED EXPENSIVE KITCHEN
- EPC RATING: C

Offers in the Region Of £124,950

The Fairway, Kings Norton



- THREE BEDROOM TERRACE HOUSE
- DOUBLE GARAGES TO THE REAR
- FITTED KITCHEN DINER AREA
- EPC RATING: C

Offers in the Region Of £134,950

Shelsley Avenue, Oldbury



- THREE BEDROOM MID TERRACE
- SPACIOUS THROUGH LOUNGE
- MODERN NEWLY FITTED KITCHEN
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £124,950

The Furlong, Wednesbury



- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS
- EPC RATING: B

Offers in Excess of £119,950

Barnwood Road, Wolverhampton



- THREE BEDROOM END TERRACE
- SPACIOUS MODERN LOUNGE
- KITCHEN / DINER
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £99,950

Sinope, Sherborne Street, Birmingham



- FIRST FLOOR STUDIO APARTMENT
- MODERN INTERIORS
- INTEGRATED FITTED KITCHEN
- EPC RATING: C

Offers in Excess of £94,950

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury



- EXCELLENT THREE BEDROOM DETACHED
- SEPERATE LARGE ANNEX
- CONSERVATORY AND OUTHOUSE
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £214,950

Cadgwith Gardens, Bilston



- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- SITUATED IN A QUIET CUL-DE-SAC
- OPEN PLAN DINING/BREAKFAST ROOM
- EPC RATING: E

Guide Price £189,950

Hellier Avenue, Tipton



- LOVELY THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- ON A LARGE PLOT OF LAND
- OFF ROAD PARKING WITH GARAGE
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in the Region Of £174,950

Plants Grove, Erdington



- MODERN THREE BEDROOM HOUSE
- UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- OPEN PLAN LIVING ROOM
- FRONT & REAR GARDENS

Offers in Excess of £129,950

Little Lane, West Bromwich



- THREE BEDROOM TERRACED HOME
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- OPPOSITE SANDWELL HOSPITAL
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £109,950

Brunswick Road, Handsworth



- FOUR BEDROOM END OF TERRACE
- MODERN NEUTRAL DECOR
- LARGE KITCHEN/DINER
- EPC RATING: B

£750 • Fees Apply •*

Druids Avenue, Rowley Regis



- THREE BEDROOM LINKED DETACHED HOUSE
- NICE QUIET LOCATION
- GARAGE
- FRONT AND REAR GARDENS

Monthly Rental Of £650*

Heritage Way, Tipton



- FULLY FURNISHED
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN
- REAR GARDEN

Monthly Rental Of £625 • Fees Apply*

Hobart Point,, West Bromwich



- GROUND FLOOR TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
- EXTREMELY WELL MAINTAINED
- REMOTE CONTROLLED GATED ACCESS
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Get your top off in MINI

By James Parker

The reinvention of the MINI brand continues with the launch of the all-new MINI Convertible.

With major refinements against its predecessor, the car features a new design and significant enhancements to make open-topped MINI motoring even more dynamic, stylish and practical.

It follows hugely successful model launches in 2004 and 2009. It remains the only premium soft-top four-seater convertible in the small car segment, and the UK continues to be the largest market worldwide for the new MINI Convertible.

Brand new features include a fully electric roof that is quieter and smoother than the previous model, a fully integrated rollover protection system and more rear space than ever before.

A striking new exterior and interior design ensures the new MINI Convertible is unmistakably MINI, whilst showcasing a blend of

sporting flair and elegant dynamism. The all-new MINI Cooper Convertible and Cooper D Convertible are 3,821 mm long, with the MINI Cooper S Convertible 3,850 mm and the MINI John Cooper Works Convertible 3,874 mm long. All models are 1,727 mm wide, 1,415 mm high and have a wheelbase of 2,495 mm.

Those dimensions have increased compared with the outgoing model, with 98 mm extra length, 44 mm extra width and 1 mm extra height. The wheelbase is 28 mm longer and track width has also grown a further 42 mm at the front and 34 mm at the rear.

The increase in dimensions has enhanced comfort levels and freedom of movement in all four seats. The two front seats have a wider range of adjustment, while rear passengers benefit from easier access, more headroom, a longer seat surface and improved lateral support. The design of the new rear more clearly defines the two individual seats.

Day-to-day practicality has also improved. Smart design and interior packaging means luggage volume has expanded by around 25 per cent to 215 litres with the roof closed and 160 litres with it folded down.

A high level of standard equipment across the range includes MINI Visual Boost Radio with a 6.5-inch screen, MINI Connected, Bluetooth connectivity with USB audio, rear parking distance control and a reversing camera.

Personalisation is once again at the heart of the new MINI Convertible with several options available.

A four-car range is available – the MINI Cooper Convertible, MINI Cooper D Convertible, MINI Cooper S Convertible and the MINI John Cooper Works Convertible – with three petrol engines and one diesel. On-the-road pricing starts from £18,475.



.....
It remains the only premium soft-top four-seater convertible in the small car segment

Fully electric, the roof is suitable for year-round use and has been optimised for the very best heat and acoustic insulation. The front roof section can also be retracted by up to 40 cm, and at any speed. For a quick reaction to sudden changes in the weather, the soft-top can be opened and closed at speeds of up to 18 mph. As an alternative to the standard soft-top in black, a MINI Yours version is available for the first time with an integrated woven graphic. The lat-

est generation of EU6-compliant engines are installed under the bonnet.

The petrol engines inside MINI Cooper Convertible and MINI Cooper S Convertible – 1.5-litre three-cylinder and 2.0-litre four-cylinder respectively – feature turbo-charging, direct fuel injection with centrally positioned injectors, variable camshaft control on the intake and exhaust side (double VANOS) and fully variable VALVE-TRONIC valve control technology.



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Refreshed and new model in i20 range

By Matt Joy

Hyundai's popular i20 hatchback has been refreshed for 2016 with a downsized petrol engine and a new model in the range.

Forget those fancy European brands you think you know; when it comes to making a solid private purchase, the Hyundai i20 is about as sensible as you can be – and that's a good thing. Smart, well-equipped, good value and offering a slick driving experience, it's hard to fault, but that hasn't stopped Hyundai giving the i20 an update for 2016.

Most importantly, it's now available with a brand-new three-cylinder turbocharged petrol engine, in two power outputs with impressive claims for fuel consumption and performance. Equipment upgrades have been made across the range while there's a whole new model too; the i20 Active is designed to be a compact crossover, with a 20mm increase in ride height, unique bumpers, roof rails and a rear spoiler.

The standard i20 is a neat and inoffensive piece of design, but in the new Active form, there's a little bit more going on. The extra detail in the front bumper gives the front end some additional presence, as does the increased ride height. It's not as distinct from its conventional sibling as some rival offerings, but it will snare some buyers that find the regular five-door too conventional.

Hyundai's image has also come a remarkable way in a matter of years. Its badge carries as much weight as many European rivals and in cars like the i20 and Santa Fe, it is producing cars with distinction.

Comfortable

There's no sheet metal changes for 2016, so the i20 keeps its exterior and interior dimensions. Those seated up front should find it easy to get comfortable. Although the seats aren't huge, they offer useful support and the low-set dashboard means the view out is good. In the rear, it's a little tighter for space with headroom at a premium for those near six feet tall, but legroom is good for the class as is the boot space.

While the Active model has suspension raised by 20mm, its effect on the i20's behaviour is minimal. The ride quality is good on the vast majority of surfaces, with only particularly poor surfaces creating significant intrusion into the cabin. On the flip side, the handling is safe and secure if unremarkable, but the steering is light and accurate plus the raised ride height doesn't make the i20 Active suddenly heel over in corners.

What really marks out the 2016 i20 however is that new powerplant. Three-cylinder turbo engines used to be the preserve of Japanese Kei cars but this Hyundai offering is a gem. The on-paper performance might seem modest, but this belies how perky it feels. It will rev quite happily without significant engine noise, but better still is the generous torque which allows you to be lazy with the gearshifts and still make good progress. Despite that, the official figures are impressive with 58.9mpg combined and 110g/km of CO₂, while the 120PS version feels no quicker on the road.

Go for the i20 Active model and you get 17-inch alloy wheels, LED daytime running lights, DAB radio and rear parking sensors for your £15,225, and this comes with the 100PS 1.0-litre turbo engine only. The regular i20 starts at £10,995 for the S model and even this comes with electrically adjusted and heated door mirrors, height adjustable driver's seat, reach and rake adjustable steering wheel and an MP3-compatible stereo with USB and auxiliary inputs. The top-spec Premium Nav SE with the top diesel engine is only £17,700, so the i20 is impressive value across the range.

If the i20 Active is big enough to suit your lifestyle then it makes an exceptionally strong case as a private purchase. It's excellent value for money whatever specification you choose, while the Active model not only combines the best engine choice but also adds in a little more ruggedness. It's an ideal first car while older folk will find the raised driving position a useful boon too. There are more sparkling drives in the class but for many drivers this is of lesser importance than value and equipment.

This car summed up in a single word: Surprising

If this car was a movie, you'd be impressed beyond your expectations, but also tempted to keep it a secret.

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TESTED

Hyundai i20 Active 1.0 100PS, £15,225

Engine: 1.0-litre petrol unit producing 99bhp and 126lb/ft of torque

Transmission: Five-speed manual gearbox driving the front wheels

Performance: Top speed 109mph, 0-62mph in 10.9 seconds

Economy: 58.9mpg combined

Emissions: 110g/km of CO₂

Ibiza can prove to be a bit of a bargain

By Ian Donaldson

CLOSE your eyes and you could be driving a Volkswagen or an Audi ... or a Skoda, come to that.

There's the same slick precision about the way everything works; the result of sinking billions of euros in development costs in budgets decided long before the VW Group's recent woes raised their expensive heads.

Now open your eyes (best do it soon if the car is moving) and you'll discover the badge reads SEAT, from the Spanish outpost of the world's biggest – or second biggest – car maker.

That means it's supposed to slip into a VW Group portfolio where Audi equals posh, Volkswagen is solidly middle class, Skoda is all about value (not cheap prices any more) and SEAT has a touch of Latin zing.

Take the car tested here. It's the latest and mildly modified version of the popular Ibiza, uniquely offered in cars of this size as a three-door hatch (the SC), a more practical five-door or the ST, for Sports Tourer, or what you and I call an estate.

Prices start at precisely £10,000 and adding a couple of doors costs £450 but the boot space stays the same. Opt for the estate and it's a slightly longer car with a much bigger load area and a price hike of £1,150 over the three-door Ibiza.

The refreshed range looks much the same as before, with only LED driving lights on dearer models and a new choice of colours and alloy wheels to give the game away. Inside, there's a new steering wheel and new look dials and trim.

Looker

So, not much to talk about there, but the Ibiza always was a bit of a looker in a class where stodgy rules more strongly than smart.

Rather more happens in the bits that matter most, from new steering to refreshed range of eight engines, starting with a 75 horsepower three-cylinder petrol unit and topping out with 192 when the new 146mph Cupra version arrives.

No price for that yet, but the 1.2 litre CONNECT model on test costs £14,170 as a three-door SC. Diesels (with only a single 1.4 litre on offer in a class that is wildly tilted towards petrol) cost from £16,885 and come with a company tax efficient 95g/km rating and theoretical 78.5mpg average consumption.

SEAT is pushing the connectivity of this latest Ibiza, meaning that if you choose the right model, or add an upgrade, you can turn your car into a version of your smartphone. Indeed, go for a CONNECT trim level and there's a Samsung Galaxy A3 mobile phone as part of the package.

The car will talk to Android or Apple operating systems, letting you talk to the world with safety and ease, or listen to your favourite music. It will, with a new SEAT CONNECT App, let you monitor your heartbeat, but best not check moments after that idiot pulled out in front of you without looking.

The CONNECT version of this Ibiza revamp looks like the sweet spot of the range and comes pretty well loaded with kit. As well as the cleverness outlined above there is satellite navigation, DAB radio and a six speaker sound system with Bluetooth.

A pair of 1.0 litre petrol engines are available, one with a turbo and more power. Next up is the four-cylinder 1.2 litre of the car you see here, with more than useful performance on a mix of country roads, where the 43mpg shown at journey's end seemed about par for the course.

And with every inch covered this latest, mildly tweaked Ibiza displayed the crispness in response from steering, clutch, gearchange and brakes that mark it out as a member of the VW Group family.

Which makes it a bit of a bargain if you choose carefully.



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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.2 (11.2) - 78.5 (3.6), Extra Urban 38.7 (7.3) - 80.7 (3.5), Combined 32.1 (8.8) - 76.3 (3.7), CO₂ Emissions 231 - 84 g/km. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

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TESTED

SEAT Ibiza SC CONNECT 1.2 TSI 90PS

Price: £14,170

Drivetrain: 1.2 litre 89bhp petrol engine, 5-speed gearbox

Performance: Top speed 114mph, 0-62mph 10.7 seconds

Economy: Euro average 56.7mpg CO₂ 116g/km road tax £0 first year, then £30

Safety: EuroNCAP 5 stars

Insurance: 13

Warranty: Three years or 60,000 miles



Would you Adam and Eve just how superb this citycar is?

Thinking of a MINI or a Fiat 500? Then you also need to be thinking about Vauxhall's trendy little ADAM. I took a drive in the brand's little lifestyle citycar. What a find.

The ADAM is Vauxhall's refreshingly different take on the small car sector. It doesn't replace the brand's conventional citycar and supermini offerings but it does offer a more stylish option that sits somewhere in between for buyers bored by the sight of BMW's reinvented MINI on every drive and unmoved by Fiat's funky 500.

Here's a fashionable alternative with an encyclopaedic list of options, bidding for individuality beyond the hatchback herd.

The model title's is a nod to Adam Opel, the founder of Vauxhall's European sister company, but is unlikely to start a trend for Biblical car names. It may though, start a trend for buyer personalisation, the like of which the market has never before seen.

With over a million possible specification and trim combinations, the chances of two identical Vauxhall ADAMs ever being produced are statistically quite slim. Ground-breaking where it matters then – in the showroom. To disguise perhaps the fact that this car is actually quite conventional in arguably less important areas, running on the underpinnings of Vauxhall's old third generation Corsa.

The dealer network won't mind. It's the stylish look and feel that will sell this model. True enough, the Griffin brand has brought us some stylish designs in the past, but they've only appealed to a small percentage of the car buying population.

Chunky

Now at last, we've a Vauxhall with widespread chic appeal – a pretty new concept for British customers to grasp. The commanding driving position, the big chunky MINI-like wheel, the wide,

low glass area. It all makes you eager to tackle the urban jungle, with the promise of secondary road sportiness beyond.

Not too much mind. Though there's a 150PS 1.4-litre petrol turbocharged powerplant in the top shopping rocket 'GRAND SLAM' model at the top of the range, most ADAM variants must use humbler engines.

Of these, the pick of the bunch is the 115PS 1.0i Direct Injection petrol turbo unit that's well worth paying a premium for. This was first introduced on the convertible 'Rocks Air' bodystyle and has since been extended out across the range.

If you can't stretch to this unit, then you'll have to restrict your search to one of Vauxhall's older petrol engines – curiously, there's no diesel option.

These petrol choices include the 70PS 1.2i and a 1.4i unit with either 87 or 100PS options.

To be honest, the entry-level 70PS 1.2-litre 16v engine does struggle a little with the task of pushing nearly 1.1-tonnes of ADAM up the road with any real zip, sixty two mph from rest occupying nearly 15s on the way to a top speed only just over 100mph. Better by far to find only a little more for one of the 1.4s. The 87PS unit manages 62mph in a far more acceptable 12.5s on the way to 109mph. And the 100PS engine improves things further to 11.5s and 115mph.

So the name's unusual. And so, for Vauxhall, is the approach. This most blue-collar of all mass-market makers is now offering us a potentially more bespoke product than lottery winners can buy from Aston Martin or Rolls Royce. It's all rather intriguing.



7 year warranty – no worries

KIA PICANTO 1.0 SR7 3 DOOR HATCHBACK

£8,845

NO DEPOSIT PLUS £500
Manufacturer deposit Contribution

0% APR

REPRESENTATIVE OVER 2 YEARS

£192.²³ per month

Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example: Kia Picanto 1.0 SR7 3 door hatchback

Cash price of car	£8,845.00	1 monthly payment	£192.21
Customer deposit	£0	23 monthly payments	£192.23
Kia deposit contribution	£500.00	One final payment (GFV)	£3,731.50
Amount of credit	£8,345.00	Total amount payable	£8,845.00
Total charge for credit	£0	Duration of agreement (months)	25
Representative	0% APR	Selected annual mileage	6,000
		Excess mileage charge	14.9p per mile



KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 GDI '1'

£16,265

NO CUSTOMER DEPOSIT

4.9% APR

REPRESENTATIVE OVER 3 YEARS

£290.²⁸ per month

Personal Contract Purchase Example: Kia Sportage 1.6 GDI '1'

Cash price of car	£16,265.00	36 monthly payments	£290.28
Customer deposit	£0	One final payment (GFV)	£7,590.50
Amount of credit	£16,265.00	Total amount payable	£18,040.58
Total charge for credit	£1,775.58	Duration of agreement (months)	37
Fixed rate of interest (per annum)	2.52%	Selected annual mileage	6,000
Annual percentage rate	4.9%	Excess mileage charge	14.9p per mile



KIA SORENTO 2.2 CRDi KX1

£28,795

NO CUSTOMER DEPOSIT PLUS
£1,250 Manufacturer deposit Contribution

4.9% APR

REPRESENTATIVE OVER 3 YEARS

£514.⁵⁶ per month

Personal Contract Purchase Example: Kia Sorento 2.2 CRDi KX1

Cash price of car	£28,795.00	36 monthly payments	£514.56
Customer deposit	£0	One final payment (GFV)	£11,963.75
Kia deposit contribution	£1,250.00	Total amount payable	£31,737.91
Amount of credit	£27,545.00	Duration of agreement (months)	37
Total charge for credit	£4,192.91	Selected annual mileage	6,000
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Log onto kia.co.uk/sr7 for full details. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty, for terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk. Offer not available with any other offer. Retail sales only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 01/04/2016 and 30/06/2016. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. 18's or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. 10% minimum deposit. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Excess mileage charge 14.9p per mile. 25, 31 and 37 month terms. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Kia Motors Finance RH1 15R. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

business services

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Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
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SELL YOUR HOUSE TODAY
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Direct Sale / No Chains / No Stress

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WE BUY ANY PROPERTY
IN ANY CONDITION
CASH IN 7 DAYS
Call Steve 01902 504448

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7 Jobs

part time - general

NEWSBOYS / GIRLS
Wanted for delivering copies of Express & Star

NEWS DELIVERERS
needed on the Ashwood Park Estate of Wordsley.
Please contact
Customer Services on
0800 174064.

BUSY KITCHEN FURNITURE MANUFACTURER

in the Netherton area require

CABINET MAKERS

for the efficient assembly of component parts into kitchen cabinets, good rates of pay and permanent position for the right people.

Please phone Mark on
01384 567171
or email details to
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DUE TO RETIREMENT The following 2 positions are available. One Sawyer and one Warehouse Person. Tel 01384 489030

courses

CRH Transport Training Train and Test at our centre in West Brom 0121 3231777 crhtraining.co.uk

MARCH MADNESS!!!!
Driver CPC 145.
Please call 07950 159094.

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

AUDI A3, 2005, blue, electric windows, electric mirrors, Mot, central locking, CD, 1.6, full service, mileage 85,000. Lady owner. £3,800. 07903 461999.

CITROEN C1 VIBR, 2008, black, 3 door, 2 keys, MoT September, £20 tax, 60,000 miles, very good condition, £2,100. 07837 686915.

SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
£21.00 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.

CALL
01902 317878

CITROEN C1 VTR 2012, 62 plate, 22,000 miles, white, 5 door, MoT to Sep 2016, road tax £0, nice car. £4,300. 07960 692484.

CITROEN PLURIEL CONVERTIBLE Automatic, 57 plate, 58,000 miles, MoT till Aug, leather interior, £2,400. Telephone 07956 332883

FIAT 500, Yellow, Automatic, Full leather, Glass roof, alloys, 11 months MoT, 58 reg, £2,600. 01785 841614 or 07956 425446.

FORD FIESTA ZETEC S1.6 TDCI (55) 11 plate, 49k SH, frozen white. All extras. Immaculate throughout. £5,995. 07970 705466 (T) or Part Ex

HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4 wheel drive, 2004, 2.0 diesel, MoT, good condition for year, recent service and cam belt changed, tow bar, parking sensors, £1,600 ono. 07703 548050. 07773 354042.

JEEP CHEROKEE CRD 2004 Automatic diesel, MoT, blue, detachable towbar, £2,300 ono. 07972 535410.

MINI COOPER 54 reg., silver with black trim, service history. MoT till August, clean condition, £1,800 ono. Call 07977 864223.

PEUGEOT 307 06 reg, 2 owners from new, FSH, full MoT, excellent condition, £2,450 ono. 01384 373999 / 07527 592477.

TOYOTA C1 AURIS late 07, 26,000 miles, as new, very reliable, MoT'd, FSH, Grey Met. £3,779. 01746 714470 or 07814 263474.

JAGUAR X TYPE

2009, 2.0 S.E. 68,500 miles, fsh, cream leather interior heated seats, sat nav, park assist, MoT February 2017, recent new clutch and battery fitted.

£6,500 ono
07572 554829

VW PASSAT S Aug 2005, 6 months MoT, blue, 76,500 miles, excellent condition £1,850 ono. 07854 988683. 07998 991971, no texts.

cars under £1500

BMA www.bmacars.com
A Wide Range of Cars From £500
Full MoT's
07956 988517
Dale Street, Bilston, WY14 7JY

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CHEVROLET MATIZ 0.8cc, 09 plate, reg, 39,000 miles, good condition, 1 owner from new, MoT till May 6, £1,100 no offers 07929 302857.

CITROEN SAXO 1.1 DESIRE 2002, 3rd, 120,000 miles, silver, PAS, CL, long MoT, £350 ono. 07891 870137.

FIAT PUNTO 1.2, Immaculate, 2002, MoT, Drives all good, 83,000 miles, £355. 07933 645988.

FORD FIESTA 1.3 1999, 80,000 miles, MoT, immaculate red, lady owner, £425. 0121 3847888.

FORD FIESTA 2005 11 months MoT, blue, excellent condition inside and out, £735. 07498 131071.

FORD FOCUS 2.0 GHIA 56 reg, 74,000 miles, silver, ABS, EW, air bag, very good condition, AC, long MoT, 5dr, £1,299 07879 403302.

FORD FOCUS LX V reg, 1.8, petrol, black, 5 door, tinted windows, four months MoT, good runner, £300. 07786 305510.

FORD KA 1.3, 2001, long MoT, excellent runner, fully loaded, 95,000 miles, any trial, very clean car, £475. 07540 474922.

FORD KA black, Sept 05 reg, 1 lady owner, MoT Sept, maintained and serviced regardless, good bodywork 61k, £780ono. 01902 851088.

FORD MONDEO Estate, 2.0, silver, 2001, 10 months MoT, good runner, £450 ono. 07760 676066.

HONDA ACCORD VTEC S 2001, silver, 97k miles, good engine / condition, MoT Sept 5825 ono Genuine sellers only, 07932 822479.

PEUGEOT 206C 1.4 ESTATE silver, 55,000 miles, 12 months MoT, 2 owners, FSH, 1st to see will buy £1,400. 07939 483221

PEUGEOT 206CC, electric convertible, 53 reg, Mo April, silver, alloys, a/c, leather, e/w, £750 ono. Telephone 07879 693569.

RENAULT CLIO 2005 1.2 Dynamique, MoT August, 88k miles, many new parts including 4 tyres, clutch and cambelt. £750 ono. 07887 353829.

ECONOMICAL

RENAULT MEGANE ESTATE
2007, 135k, diesel, Dynamique, full service history, 11 months MoT, pas, cruise control, air con, alloys, isofix, great family car, good condition.
£1,495 ono.
07763 490669.

ROVER 216SLI 16V, 1995, immaculate, red metallic, 10 services, 2 owners, all extras, £365. 07771 428793.

ROVER 25 1.4, 2005, 5-dr hatchback, leather upholstery, 46,000 miles, blue, 12 months MoT, £750. 01902 761494.

ROVER75 Connoisseur, 62,300 miles, one owner, 02 reg, fsh, serviced yearly, BMW engine, £1,050 ono. 01922 401692, after 6pm.

SAB 93 CONVERTIBLE, silver, 1999, 7 months MoT, pas, e/w, alarm, 78,000 miles, CD, £675. Telephone 07410 400218.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 5-dr, V reg, 48,200 miles, blue, MoT, FSH, lady owner, very good condition. £600 ono. 01902 784464.

VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB 1.2 5dr, 2002, light blue, 1 lady owner, 12 months MoT, stunning condition, only £995. 07984 141652.

VAUXHALL VECTRA ESTATE, 2004, 53,000 Miles, Red, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, MoT, £1,500 ono. 07742 589719.

VW BEETLE 2000 114k, lime, abs, CD, A/C, full MoT, Reg C160 B3, one Former owner Excellent. £1,499 ono. 07341 973452.

VW BEETLE 2002 reg, 12 months MoT, very good condition, low miles, alloys, alarm, AC, EW, stereo. £750 ono. 07754 557861.

VW PASSAT SPORT, 150,000 miles, blue, MoT, CD, V reg, TDI, £775. 07967 117862.

Are you customer focussed? Want to progress into sales?

MNA Media

The MNA, publishers of the Express & Star and Shropshire Star, is looking for talented people to join our sales teams across the West Midlands and Shropshire. The role involves advising and selling response focussed advertising solutions to a diverse range of businesses across our newspaper and digital portfolio.

Key responsibilities and skills should ideally include:

- The ability to develop a firm business relationship with customers
- Be able to generate new business
- The desire to exceed minimum sales targets
- Be creative and articulate
- Be able to identify the best advertising opportunities that will enhance a customer's marketing response.

You will already have a proven track record in sales, or have high levels of customer service skills. However, if you feel you have an outgoing and friendly personality and would like the opportunity to move into a fast paced business, then we can train you to succeed in the role.

Once fully qualified, you can expect to earn a good basic salary and an attractive OTE potential. Benefits include a company car for Field Sales, five weeks paid holiday, full training and ongoing side by side coaching. There are good career prospects for the right candidates to progress through to Senior Sales Consultants within the team.

Please send your C.V., along with a covering letter to:

Personnel Department
Midland News Association
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Or apply by email to: hr@mnamedia.co.uk
Closing date: 24th March 2016.

Express & Star MNA STAR

Owners of Express & Star Ltd and Shropshire Newspapers Ltd

classic cars

VW TYPE 25 Camper, 1981, tin top, 2.0 twin carb air cooled engine, 2-berth, nice interior, runs/drives well, no MoT, £1,495. 07592 076079.

MG MIDGET 1500 MoT, recent respray and new hood, lots of new parts, over £1500 spent, reduced price to £1,999. 01384 74272.

commercial vehicles

CITROEN BERLINGO 1.9 DIESEL 2002, MoT October 2016, 17ins alloys with new tyres, 190,000 miles, very good condition, new clutch and timing belt, ready to use. £750 on. Telephone 07905 432569.

driving tuition

Drive All Seasons
Lessons Starting From
5 Lessons £90
10 Lessons £89
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Franchise Opportunities Available
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01902 560065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £40, 10 lessons £80, £18 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

motorbikes

HONDA 650CC DEAUVILLE W reg, 32,000 miles, very good condition. Full MoT. New tyres just fitted. £1,500 on. 07877 722908.

HONDA CBR 1986, £500. Call for details 0787 722908.

WE BUY BIKES immaculate, as new, garaged / no runners, Cash paid. Peter/All Bikes. 01902 312939 bikessallpares@gmail.com

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

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MONMORE RD, WV1 2TZ

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Brierley Hill 01384 76586 or 70553. Evenings 07813 184611 Oldbury Area.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available 0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611 Oldbury Area.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

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Call Bob
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07972 169554 anytime

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Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clio's & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

number plates

PRIVATE PLATE FOR SALE UHT 800. Suit Milkman or Milk Distributor. £450. Assignment fee £80 paid. Call 01902 831158.

spares/parts

ROOF BOXES & BAR package deals from £149.95. Cheapest in Midlands. Wolves Hire 01902 746723. Tetterhall Rd, WV6 0LE.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549649, 01902 597055.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

PAUL SKELDON (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 134 Heath Road Netherton Dudley Walsall B62 0AS, who died on 29/12/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 27/05/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

GEORGE GREEN LLP
195 High Street Cradley Heath
West Midlands B64 5HW

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

IN BANKRUPTCY

DUDLEY COUNTY COURT
NO 281 of 2009 RE: DEAN GARNER PARTRIDGE

Who at the date of the bankruptcy order 4th August 2008, resided at 118 Arthur Road, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 0NW.

D.O.B: 16 February 1987

NOTE: the above-named was discharged from the proceedings and may no longer have a connection with the address listed.

I intend to pay within four months from 15th April 2016 (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 5.72 p/c.

Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by 15th April 2016 otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website (www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency, select "Forms" and then form 6.37). Alternatively, you can contact my office at Second Floor, 3 Piccadilly Place, London Road, Manchester M1 3BN or telephone 0161 234 8500 to supply a form.

Mr D Gibson, Official Receiver and trustee

10 Personals

personal

Angels
The largest adult magazine in the UK
Adult Toys & Sexy Lingerie
Genuine Nude Models
Unit 5 Frederick Street,
Walsall WS2 9NE
01922 635544

I AM LOOKING FOR MY SON

Mr A. Lewis.
Last seen Wolverhampton.
Please get in touch.
Box Number P20267,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

ADULT CINEMA. The Foxy Lady 01902 490898. Gentlemen's Dance Bar opening soon! 01902 405522.

GENTLEMAN 5FT 5 74 years, wishes to meet lady 50-74 for friendship, possible relationship. Photo appreciated. (Returned). Box Number P20265, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

WIDOWER 76, FIT WITH OWN CAR. Would like to meet a lady, preferably slim and not too tall, with a good sense of humour, for fun and friendship. Stourbridge, Kidderminster or Worcester area. Write to Box No: P20266, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

ADVERTISEMENTS

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

1. **Midland News Association Limited** All publications in this group are published by the Midland News Association Limited, registered office: Queens Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES ("the Company") and this is the address to which any notices should be sent.
2. **Acceptance** The Company will only accept advertising on these standard terms and no other contract terms or conditions will apply other than those which are implied by statute and cannot lawfully be excluded. In particular the Company will not accept advertising on the basis of advertiser's terms and conditions.
3. **Content of Advertisements** All advertisements must be legal, decent, honest and truthful. Advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes under the general supervision of the Advertising Standards Authority. Advertisements must comply with the requirements of all current legislation including but not limited to the following:- All advertisements must clearly differentiate between trade and private advertising as required by the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must comply with the Consumer Credit (Advertisement) Regulations 1980. All descriptions of goods must be accurate and in no way infringe the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968. Advertisements must not contain any material which is defamatory. You must have permission to use any material contained in your advertisement and must not infringe the copyright moral rights or any other right of any third party. The Company reserves the right to refuse to carry any advertisement or to require amendment of any advertisement in its absolute discretion.
4. **Appearance of Advertisements** Whilst the Company makes every effort to comply with requests, publication on a particular date or in a particular position cannot be guaranteed. The Company reserves the right to alter, suspend, cancel or reject an advertisement at its discretion even after the same has been accepted for publication without being liable to compensate you. You will not be charged for any advertisement which does not appear. If only a part of a series of advertisements appears you will only be charged for the advertisements in the series which actually appear. The Company does not guarantee the publication or extent of supporting editorial or your obligation to pay advertising costs will not under any circumstances be dependent upon the appearance or content of editorial. No liability will be accepted for non-appearance of editorial. The Company does not guarantee that advertising by electronic or other means, or the same subject matter to your advertisement and no liability shall be accepted as a result of such advertising appearing. It is the advertiser's responsibility to provide any amended copy, whether by electronic or other means, and the Company does not guarantee that it will be able to or will agree to modify, amend or alter any file or copy supplied to it.
5. **Liability** The Company's liability for any loss or damage caused by any error or omission in the advertisement or any other breach of contract shall not in any circumstances exceed a full refund of any price paid by the advertiser to the Company for the publication of the advertisement or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of the same type as that which originally appeared. Where a series of advertisements is accepted the Company's liability shall not in any circumstances exceed the value of the first advertisement in the series. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the publication of the advertisement the Company will either re-publish the advertisement or relevant parts of the advertisement or make a reasonable refund or of adjustment to the cost of the advertisement. If the error does not materially detract from the advertisement then no re-publication, refund or adjustment will be made. It is the advertiser's responsibility to check the content of advertisements and the Company will not accept any liability for loss or damage, or for any re-publication or make a refund or adjustment, arising from re-publication of an advertisement containing an error, misprint or omission which has not been identified by the advertiser after first publication.
6. **Box numbers** The Company accepts no liability for loss or damage caused by delay in forwarding or omission to forward to the advertiser replies to Box Numbers. Box Numbers must not be used for the transmission of goods, circulars or communications from agents. The Company reserves the right to open and inspect all replies to Box Number and to destroy goods, circulars or communications from agents which are discovered by the Company.
7. **Inspection** The Company shall be entitled at any time to inspect any goods or services advertised and may decline to carry further advertisements if such inspection is not permitted or if the Company's opinion the provision of any advertising facilities is not appropriate in view of the nature or quality of the goods or services.
8. **Indemnity** The advertiser, including any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement, warrants that it has permission to use for publication by electronic and printed means all material which is included in the advertisement. The advertiser and any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement agree to indemnify the Company in respect of all charges, costs, claims or damage arising out of the publication of the advertisement, whether the same result from actual or threatened legal action or from some other cause.
9. **Cancellation** On a request for cancellation or amendment of a classified advertisement being accepted, you will be given a cancellation or amendment number which must be quoted in all subsequent correspondence. Payment of the originally agreed price will be required in full for any advertisement in relation to which the advertiser is unable to supply a valid cancellation or amendment number. Cancellation can only be accepted if the Company is notified of the cancellation by no later than the following deadlines: Lineage, Semi Display - By no later than 6.30pm on the working day prior to publication. Advertisements to appear on Monday must be cancelled by 10 am on the preceding Saturday. Classified Display - By no later than 24 hours before the date of publication. Colour/Features - By no later than 10 clear days before the date of publication. To cancel Lineage, Semi Display and Classified Display advertisements please telephone 01902 317878. To cancel Colour/Features advertisements please speak to the Representative through whom the advertisement was booked.
10. **Rates** Advertising rates are as laid out in the Company's current rate card which is available on request from the Company's offices. The rates may be varied from time to time in the Company's absolute discretion and without prior notification of the intended variation. The revised rate will be charged for any advertising ordered after the date of variation.
11. **All gross advertising rates** except classified lineage and semi-display are subject to a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance levy payable by advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.
12. **Payment** The Company reserves the right to require pre-payment as a condition of any advertisement being published. Where pre-payment is not required unless different credit terms have been agreed with the advertiser in writing payment must be made within 14 days of the date of issue of the Company's invoice. An additional £2.00 booking charge will be payable if the invoice is not paid in full within this 14 day period. Any additional credit facilities which are offered are at the Company's absolute discretion. The advertiser's liability shall be for the full amount of all advertising ordered and shall not be limited to the amount of any credit limit which the Company may impose. Payment may be made by [method] cash, cheque or credit/debit card. The advertiser's obligation to pay for other items on an account shall not be affected by the existence of any query over an individual item within that account.
13. **Data Protection Act** The advertiser's details will be retained by the Company for the purposes of administering our accounts records and so that the Company may notify the advertiser of future advertising opportunities which may be of interest to you. By placing advertising with the Company the advertiser agrees to your details being used for this purpose.
14. **Applicable Law** These conditions of acceptance shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

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Still on the ball – former Wolves player Andy Mutch



Andy Mutch during his Wolves days



Steve Bull and Andy Mutch reunited for a fans question and answer session



Goalscorers Andy Mutch and Robbie Dennison celebrate as they lift the Sherpa Van Trophy back in 1988

So Mutch to remember of Andy's 30 golden years

IT'S 30 years since the union between Wolves and striker Andy Mutch began – but on his first day he managed to turn up an hour late.

The Scouser netted 96 times in 289 games over a seven-year spell at the club after joining Wolves on February 22, 1986.

The popular forward, who was inducted into Wolves' Hall of Fame in 2013, is best remembered for a goal-laden partnership up front with club legend Steve Bull. But there was no sign of Bull when Mutch rocked up at Molineux, after a £5,000 fee had been agreed with non-league Southport.

Mishap

He was coming to a club that had won all of England's major honours at a time when they were heading towards their lowest ebb – relegation into the bottom tier of the Football League.

Becoming a full-time footballer in the process was all weighing heavily on Mutch as he drove down the M62 to put pen to paper, landing elsewhere initially after a mishap!

He said: "My mind was just racing about what was ahead of me and Manchester was not the place I needed to be on this particular day!"

"I'd missed the turn off for Wolverhampton and had to re-route, so I turned up about an hour late to sign. It wasn't the best start to my career at Wolves."

Mutch's dream of making the game his living had come true, though, having fallen out of the professional ranks after starting out with Everton.

Wolves boss Sammy Chapman spotted him and

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Craig Birch

"I had the time of my life with Wolves, nothing else ever came close. It was a great ride to be on."

paid a small fee to take him from the Sandgrounders, where he'd made his senior debut. Mutch said: "I was a schoolboy at Everton, at a time when the club was very successful. It didn't work but, when I was 18, they asked me to come back. I played 18 games for the reserve team.

"I left again and went to Southport, who were part-time and in the Northern Premier League, and got a day job delivering fridges.

"We'd played at Kidderminster Harriers in the FA Trophy, it was a replay after we'd drew 1-1 at our place. We lost 6-1 there, but I got the goal!"

"Sammy was the Wolves manager, at the time, and was there watching the game. I'd scored lots of goals for Southport, so it wasn't a surprise that someone had come in for me.

"What I was actually getting paid when I went to Wolves was buttons. It was probably less than I earned playing football and working.

"But Wolves were a club that was synonymous to

me. I used to watch 'Kick Off' with Gerald Sinstadt as a kid and they were always on television."

It was, by no means, an easy time to be a Wolves player with the club heading for relegation from the old Third Division under the disastrous ownership of the Bhatti brothers.

Wolves went through three managers in his first year, but settled on Graham Turner in the October who would lead them to two promotions.

One of his first acts was to sign Bull and Andy Thompson from Albion in a double deal, with Bull and Mutch spearheading the rise through the divisions. Mutch scored the first goal, with Robbie Dennison getting the second, at Wembley as Wolves beat Burnley 2-0 in the 1988 Sherpa Van Trophy final.

Trophy

"Graham Turner brought a new type of professionalism into the club. He always knew how to get the best out of me. I always rated him as the best manager I've ever played under."

Turner spent seven-and-a-half years at the helm before making way for Graham Taylor in 1994 and sold Mutch the year before his departure.

Premier League new-boys Swindon Town came calling for a £250,000 move in August 1993, meaning Mutch played in the top-flight during his career.

He would go on to play for Wigan Athletic and Stockport County before dropping back into non-league.

The 52-year-old said: "I never wanted to leave Wolves, but I got the feeling from the club that they thought it was time for me to move on. I had the time of my life with Wolves, nothing else ever came close. It was a great ride to be on."

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Glassboys 'keeper to the rescue

Stourbridge 1 Frickley Athletic 1
STOURBRIDGE climbed back into the Evo-Stik League Premier Division play-off positions but didn't claim maximum points against a Frickley side who frustrated them for much of the game.

Glassboys boss Gary Hackett admitted, "We peppered their goal and we probably created more chances than in games we've won this season. Frickley scored from their first attack and that gave them something to hang on to."

"But the most important thing is that we didn't lose and that could have easily happened at the death."

The Glassboys dictated the first half but fell behind on 24 minutes when a high clearance deceived the Stourbridge defence with its bounce and fell for Luke Hinsley to rifle home his shot past Glassboys 'keeper Matthew Gould from the edge of the box.

Stourbridge equalised within 31 seconds after the interval. They won a throw-in straight from kick-off and full-back Kristian Green squared the ball across the face of Frickley's goal for the league's leading marksman Karl Hawley to convert with a low shot.

Stourbridge stepped up the pace and began to lay siege to Frickley's goal. They could have won it from a 77th-minute corner when central defender Dan Scarr saw his goal-bound header punched out by Frickley 'keeper Seb Malkowski. The ball fell for Hawley but Malkowski turned the ball over the crossbar.

Stour created a string of chances, Stuart Pierpoint heading wide from a Sean Geddes corner while Matt Dodd lobbed inches over. Sub Ashley Vincent broke through in the 89th minute but Malkowski turned his shot round the post. Five minutes into stoppage time, Frickley striker Jacob Hazel found himself free in front of goal but Gould made a vital save.

Hagley take title for first time as Pedmore beaten

Cookley (72-1) lost to Hagley (73-0) by six wickets

COOKLEY fielded only five players as a result of a late withdrawal and struggled against the champions elect, losing Todd Henderson for 14 with the score at 31. The innings finished with Cookley on 72, a target of just six an over.

Joe Lennon set about the Cookley bowling with enthusiasm and plundered 13 from Dan Soley's first over and 12 in the second before retiring. Stead and John McDonnell both hit 20 as Hagley reaching the total in the sixth over.

Pedmore (87-3) lost to Oldswinford (88-1) by one wicket

OLDSWINFORD elected to bowl. Openers Dan Jones and Matt Porter started well but Jones was run out with the score on 27. Pedmore lost a second wicket on 38 leaving Porter and John Hurdman to try to restore normal service. On the retirement of Porter the scoring slowed, 87 is rarely a sufficient target although Oldswinford made the task look more difficult, reaching the target in the 11th over. Pedmore's loss saw the league title go to Hagley for the first time.

Gethin sidelined for hometown bout

Boxing
WALSALL'S Luke Paddock has local rival Martin Gethin firmly in his sights as he looks to pass his audition at the Town Hall this Saturday.

The super-lightweight duo seemed to be on a collision course with the pair slated to star on Black Country Boxing's 'Cool Hand & The Gang' bill this weekend.

HOWEVER, a pulled chest muscle means Gethin has been sidelined and will instead take up a ringside seat for the show with Paddock headlining. And, providing 'Cool Hand' comes through unscathed on Saturday, the Bloxwich boxer is relishing a proposed scrap with former world title contender Gethin. 'Paddock is in action over six

Boxing

against former Central area title contender Lee Connolly, while Halesowen's super middleweight Lennox 'Dangerous' Clarke faces Swindon's former Southern and IBF Inter-Continental champion Kelvin Young and Wednesfield's unbeaten warrior Des Bowater is up at super featherweight against capable livewire Chris Adaway.

Bowater's older brother Sid Bowater also gets himself up and running with a welterweight four-rounder against Brummie Dwayne Sheldon, in second pro outings for both fighters.

Midlands light middleweight champion and two-time British title challenger Jason Welborn, from Rowley Regis, features, while West Bromwich's Tom Stokes has seen his middleweight four-round affair with Stoke's scrapper Mark Till resurrected. Two debutants will switch sports from kickboxing, including Kyle Williams of Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton.

The 24-year-old will continue to teach at Fran Zuccala's Kickboxing and Gracie Jiu Jitsu club alongside his new calling. Williams will turn over at bantam. Tickets, priced at £30 and £60 ring-side, are still on sale from the Town Hall Box Office on 0845 111 2900.

LOYAL SUPPORT FOR HEATHENS

CRADLEY Heathens continue to break club records – before the season has even started!

Just over a week before their opening meeting with Belle Vue at Monmore on March 28, club sponsorship has reached an all-time high on the back of record breaking season ticket sales.

Their main team sponsors Motor Market of Cradley Heath have pledged their support for another season through lifelong supporters Adam and Dean Bridge.

Returning hero Ashley Morris visited the Motor Market premises, overlooking the housing estate site of the old Dudley Wood Stadium, at the weekend to thank the duo for their backing.

With new club partners joining – including Dr Rod Brooks and Dudley Stroke Association – boss Will Pottinger has paid tribute to those who have stepped forward to back the club.

"What people may forget is that the club's future was very uncertain just a few months ago," he said. "It was a tough time for everyone at the club, but credit must be given to the management team for sticking by the team and turning things on its head."

"Sponsorship and the commercial side of things are a massively important part of modern day speedway. In any sport nowadays, you simply cannot rely on the entrance admission money alone because costs are greater than ever."

"While it's always good to welcome new sponsors on board, at the same time it's great and very reassuring when we're able to keep sponsors and club partners year after year. It gives you a solid foundation. We're very fortunate at the Heathens because we've got some fantastic title team sponsors in Motor Market Ltd, who are now our longest serving sponsors and we're delighted to team up with them again."

"We've got some brilliant club partners on board in Venue Cuisine, Steve Taylor Construction Specialists, House of Watches and especially Dudley Stroke Association. We owe a large debt of gratitude to Dr Rod Brooks from the association because he played a vital role in helping keep the club alive over the winter."

"We're equally delighted to continue our partnership with Curtis Sport. Stuart Curtis is a lifelong Heathens fan."

Charlesworth bags British crown



Brandon Prince, Reuben, WAKO president Nev Wray, Raj Chripal and Haydon Lindley

LOWER Gornal fighter Reuben Charlesworth has been called up for England after adding to more crowns to his bulging collection.

The teenager retained his Mens -74kg British Kickboxing title for the third year in a row. Halesowen Martial Arts instructor Charlesworth who also is an unbeaten boxer, kept his British title in Birmingham against some of the best Points Fighting kickboxers the UK has to offer.

Charlesworth's elimination fights were all very close fought contests with the final against a very good fighter from Andover, Brandon Prince, who had already bagged a title in the weight below. The adversaries had only met

once before with Charlesworth victorious. This fight was very tense with each kick and punch felt around the arena.

A close fight, it went to sudden death after three hard rounds. Charlesworth sent out a body shot with the final shot to hold on to his British title.

The 18-year-old followed that up with a win in the Irish Open at the same weight.

He will have a local contingent cheering him on when he back in the ring on home soil to put his undefeated boxing skills on the line. He represents England – against Ireland – for the British Boxing Union in Brierley Hill on April 30.

Foster swaps blue hoops for county

DK athlete Ben Foster swapped his blue hooped vest for a green and white one on Saturday becoming the first athlete from the club to claim county honours representing Staffordshire in the Inter Counties Cross Country Championships at Cofton Park, Birmingham.

In a stellar field Foster achieved his tongue-in-cheek aim of not coming last by finishing an impressive 194th in 45.22 over a muddy undulating 12k course.

It was a busy weekend for the blue hoops travelling all over the country looking for racing opportunities.

Ingrid Cain took part in the Raceways Stratford Spring Marathon finishing in 38th place in 4.40.59, using the race as a training run, over the 10k distance at the same event Daren Thompson claimed 12th place in 40.54.

At Lichfield in the Fradley 10k Catherine Quane finished in 276th place in 51.20 and Paula Pallant came 544th in 59.20.

There were plenty of half marathons on offer, at Ironbridge Simon Hughes claimed 19th place and 3rd M35 in 1.25.25, Dave Norman, using the race as the middle miles in a 20 mile day, was 32nd in 1.29.07, Graham Wildgoose finished in 93rd in 1.38.35, Sergei Lyubovnikov was 117th in 1.40.33 and Sally McConville finished in 2.00.55 for 360th place.

At Falmouth Mark Homer ran an excellent 1.36.19 over a tough course to claim 68th place and 3rd M55 and at Liverpool Russell Fox stopped the clock in 1.44.33 for 1179th position and Andy Weaver finished in 2034th in 1.53.42 while Bob Jones was 57th in the Liverpool 10 mile race in 1.21.18.

In the Knighton 20 Karen Doy finished in 2.55.00 in 228th, Kathryn Sneyd was only two places behind in 2.55.35 and Lisa Newell 372nd in 3.35.16.

Spartans beaten by Clarke's strike

Blyth Spartans 0 Halesowen Town 1

HALESOWEN stunned league leaders Blyth with a hard-fought victory after Tyree Clarke snatched the winner with a first-half breakaway.

The on-loan Stourbridge striker upset the form book and also bagged his second Halesowen goal in two games.

The Yeltz shrugged off their long journey to force several early corners but top-of-the-table Blyth's Alex Nicholson made a good run in the 21st minute before fluffing his shot. Arran Wearmouth went close twice and had a penalty appeal turned down before Yeltz struck in the 35th minute.

★★★

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